

THE TIMES
Tomorrow

Crown national Shakespeare meets the absentees Royals of Italy, Albania and Yugoslavia

London look Suzy Menkes on the home-grown clothes for 1984

LONDON FASHION

Sherry picker Roger Scruton in pursuit of a good sherry

Topping out Bernard Levin looks into the bottomless pit at the end of the topless rainbow

Final Test John Woodcock at the final test against Pakistan in Lahore

Salvador guerrillas step up war

Salvadoran guerrillas have stepped up their war against the Government as the countdown begins for next Sunday's presidential election. Rebels attacked army strongholds, blocked the Pan American highway, and confiscated identity cards to stop people from voting. Page 7

Costs aid plan for defendants

The Government has drawn up a consultation document which may enable defendants acquitted by magistrates courts in summary cases to have their costs paid from the public purse. Page 2

Market move

In a change of stance, the Stock Exchange may call for legislation to control non-members when fixed commissions are abolished within the next two years. Page 15

Libya accused

Egypt, accusing Libya of responsibility for the air-attack on a Sudanese radio station, put its armed forces on full alert and activated its defence pact with Sudan. Page 5

Senate ordeal

The Senate judiciary committee starts further hearings into the financial affairs of Mr Edwin Meece, President Reagan's aide and Attorney General-designate. Page 7

Schools peace

France's Socialist Government produced a compromise plan on funding private church schools, assuring their continued separate existence. Page 4

London arts cut

The switching of funds from London to the regions in the Arts Council's new strategy will threaten an orchestra, the Hayward Gallery, and the Royal Court Theatre. Page 2

Warner deal

Warner Communications, the American entertainment group, confirmed that it has paid \$172.6m (£120m) to buy back 5.7 million Warner Shares from News International. Page 15

Golden Fleece

Golden Fleece, the 1982 Derby winner, died at the Troytown Equine Hospital, co Kildare yesterday. He had been ill for some time and had had two operations.

Dilley returns

Graham Dilley will not play in the third Test match starting today because of a thigh injury. He is to fly home. Page 22

Leader page 13

Letters: Our public spending green paper, from Sir Leo Piatzky, and Mr D. E. Wiseman; consent to medical treatment, from Professor J. K. Mason and Dr R. A. McCall Smith

Leading articles: EEC budget; the Cross in Poland

Features, pages 10-12

Franz Josef Strauss argues the dangers of European "neutrality"; Keeping at bay those who spy on the spooks; Labour's new hope; Spectrum: the men who would be king; Monday Page: circular letters and round robins

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Mr Tom Laughton, Jorge Andrade

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Pit leaders under pressure to call national strike vote

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Moderate miners' leaders prepared last night to retreat from an all-out conflict as an unprecedented police operation got under way in areas where men have voted to work normally.

The executive committee of the National Union of Mine Workers is expected to have an emergency session during the next 48 hours to call a national pithead ballot on pay and pit closures.

The executive's attitude may, however, harden after High Court proceedings for contempt being brought by the National Coal Board later today and the security measures under which 8,000 policemen from all parts of Britain were mobilized ready to go into the troubled coalfields of the North and Midlands.

All but one of the union's area votes opposed industrial action, and the moderates who share power with the left on the executive last night insisted on rapid moves towards a national ballot.

The Yorkshire miners' leaders met last night to decide whether to continue to defy the labour laws by re-imposing flying picket lines in neighbouring coalfields.

The area executive was understood to be divided, particularly after hearing that 8,000 policemen had been alerted.

The meeting ended after two hours. Delegates refused to say what decisions had been taken.

Deciding members are also considering ways of countering police checks of suspect vehicles, including a road block.

of miners driving in convoy along the M1.

In Nottinghamshire, miners who voted almost three to one against striking have been told to resume normal working at the 6am shift today.

The Yorkshire pickets who halted many of the area's 25 pits last week have been asked to stay away, but Mr Ray Chadburn, the Nottinghamshire miners' president, also complained that the intense policing had made their position intolerable.

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, insisted yesterday that the police would be "doing no more than maintaining the law enabling you and me to go to work."

He said on BBC Radio: "If it does involve a lot of extra police work, then so be it. It is not involving the Government in the dispute."

He added: "The whole British public will support the police in this very difficult job they have. I do not think people will say I am trying to inflame the situation by merely stating the law."

He insisted that the police were entitled to stop coachloads of pickets if they feared a breach of the peace.

His comments reflect the government's determination to avoid public involvement while taking a firm line against illegal secondary picketing.

Today the coal board will lay

Pit votes, table and photograph page 2

Ferdinand Mount page 12

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Police set to match pickets man for man

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

These miners' dispute has led to a huge mobilization of police: manpower, with some 8,000 officers deployed since last Thursday from more than 20 of the 43 regional police forces in England and Wales.

This total of officers moving to and from the Midlands is considerably more than the figure of 3,000 given by Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, on Friday.

The senior policeman who has organized the deployment from a Scotland Yard control centre spoke yesterday of the most mobile and sophisticated police reserve yet assembled in Britain. He indicated that flying pickets of miners from Yorkshire or anywhere else would be matched man for man by equally mobile officers.

Mr David Hall, Chief Constable of Humberside and controller of the National Recording Centre - the coordinating centre for assistance to forces in the Midlands over the past few days - said: "If a problem moves from point A to point B we would move to assist local police forces as necessary."

"I and my fellow chief constables are resolute in our desire to ensure that law and order is maintained. So far as possible anyone who wishes to work should be allowed to do so."

Mr Hall denied strongly that the police were "being used as a weapon of the Government". The centre was no instrument of political control of the police.

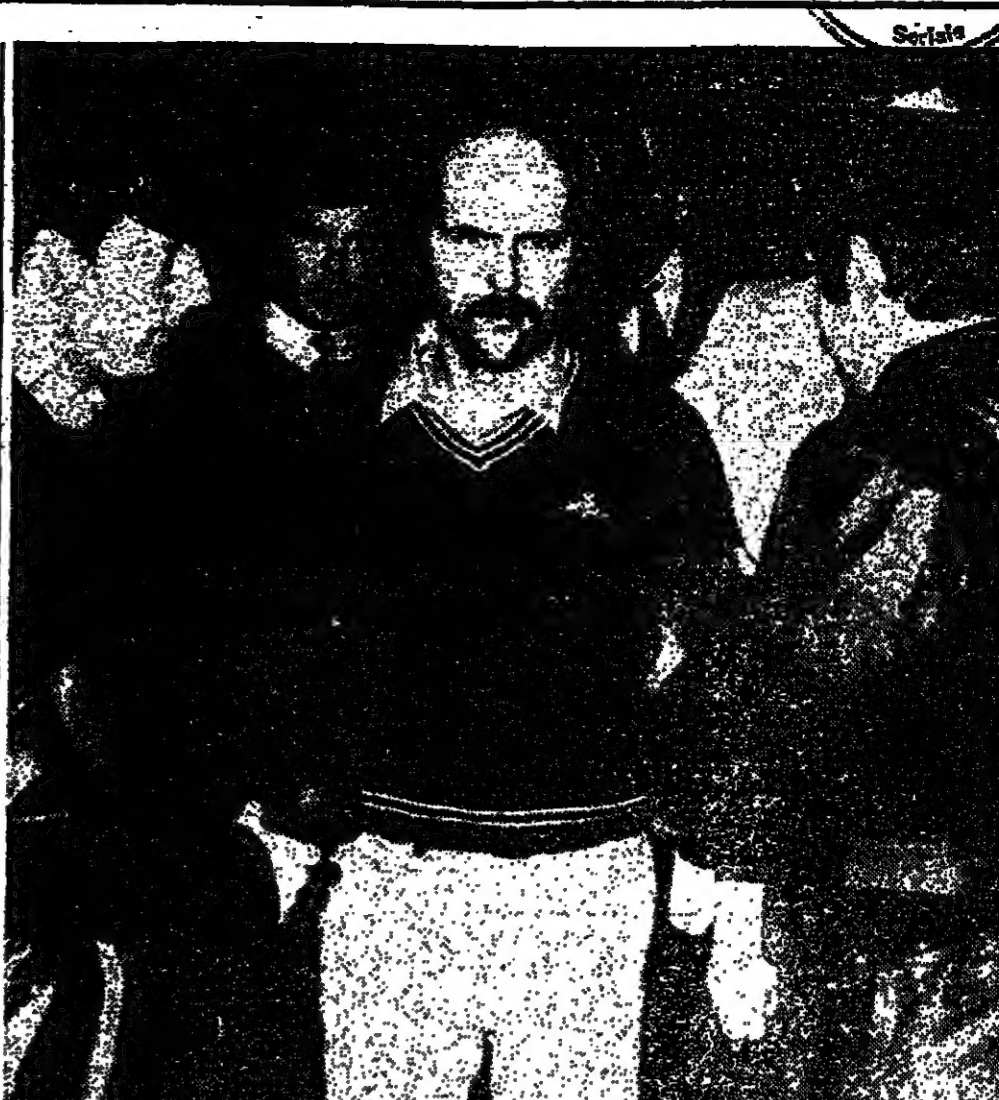
Mr Hall: "We will cope for as long as it takes."

Since the centre was activated on the thirteenth floor of Scotland Yard last Wednesday 8,000 men have been mobilized from Police Support Units, which are trained in riot control and now maintained by all forces. A substantial number of forces have contributed to the reserve sent to Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Derbyshire; units have brought their own riot equipment.

The cost will bear heavily on the counties requesting assistance. Half will come from the Home Office; the rest will have to be found by ratepayers. The total cost is estimated at about £900,000 a day.

Mr Hall gave unprecedented publicity to the existence and workings of the National Recording Centre.

Continued on back page, col 3



Border transfer: Dominic McGlinchey is handed over to Royal Ulster Constabulary officers.

McGlinchey questioned by RUC after extradition

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Dominic McGlinchey, the most wanted man in Ireland, and suspected leader of the Irish National Liberation Army, was questioned yesterday by police in Northern Ireland, after being extradited from the republic.

He showed no emotion as members of the special Task Force, headed by the Northern Ireland Constabulary, escorted him to a room at the RUC headquarters at 12.32 am at the border near Killeen, Down, only 18 hours after his arrest in county Clare. Mr McGlinchey was wanted by the RUC in connection with 16 terrorist murders, bombings and other offences committed during the last few years.

Courts in the republic have rejected 48 extradition applications since 1970 but the speed with which Mr McGlinchey was brought to the border indicated the resolve of the republic's government to be firm on security matters.

The terrorist suspect on the run from police in both parts of Ireland for 15 months, was brought to the border after a day of legal moves designed to prevent the authorities implementing an extradition order granted in December 1982. He was driven at high speed from Clare to Dublin where on St Patrick's night, the Supreme Court met for two hours and decided to uphold its original decision.

Within an hour of that judgment Mr McGlinchey, aged 30, from Ballygally, co London-

erry, was being driven north in a heavily armed convoy to become the first person to be extradited for alleged terrorist offences from the republic to Northern Ireland. Soldiers and armed police stood along the road in the republic as the convoy, sirens blaring and headlights blazing arrived at the border where Mr McGlinchey was handed to two uniformed RUC officers who drove away in a heavily armed police car.

Mr McGlinchey had been ordered to be extradited for the alleged murder of Mrs Hester McMillan, aged 63, who died in a Provisional IRA ambush intended for her son, a member of the security forces, in Co. Antrim, seven years ago.

He jumped bail in the republic, but on Saturday members of the Special Task Force surrounded a house near Newmarket on Fergus, co Clare

and at 6 am called on Mr McGlinchey to surrender. He had apparently been under surveillance for some time as were his two sons Declan and Dominic, aged seven and five, who have recently been spotted in the area. At least 70 shots were fired in a brief gun battle in which a detective sergeant was slightly injured in the shoulder, and a house nearby riddled with bullets.

There was no sign of Mr McGlinchey's wife Mary, who last December was believed to have been heavily pregnant and is now rumoured to be abroad. His two sons were later taken to a local police station but were refused permission to see their father.

The extradition, which was welcomed by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, comes as the New Ireland Forum is preparing its report on ways of securing peace throughout the island and Dr Garret FitzGerald will meet the Prime Minister at the EEC Heads of Government summit starting today. He was clearly delighted at the capture.

As controversy began in the republic over the extradition, Dr FitzGerald said the Supreme Court had decided there were some alleged offences that were so grave they could not be described as political. The principle of looking at each offence before deciding whether it could be regarded as "political by civilized peoples" Continued on back page, col 1

Dr Garret FitzGerald: Delighted at capture

Mondale in good heart for Illinois

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Walter Mondale contests tomorrow's Illinois primary in good heart after winning the Michigan and Arkansas caucuses on Saturday and forging ahead in Mississippi.

The other contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination, Senator Gary Hart and the Rev Jesse Jackson, can also take comfort from the result. The latter won a popularity vote in Mississippi, giving his campaign a welcome psychological boost, and Mr Hart's Michigan showing was surprisingly good for someone who had barely campaigned there.

Tomorrow's Illinois primary is wide open.

In the days of Mayor Richard Daley and the notorious party machine, the result was never in doubt. But times have changed.

On the trial, page 5

Husain says he may turn to Russia

From Our Own Correspondent Washington

King Husain of Jordan said last night that he may seek arms from the Soviet Union if he is turned down by the United States.

In a satellite interview from Amman on American television he was told that Congress may not give him the Stinger shoulder-to-air missiles and other arms requested by the Reagan Administration.

"We need them very, very badly," he replied, "but not at this kind of price. If the price is for the dignity of Jordan to be affected, then it is too big."

He referred to the strong influence of Israel and the Israeli lobby in Washington.

Asked if he would go to the Soviet Union for arms, he said: "We are not going to remain exposed to danger. We will look anywhere."

Hobson said: "The crew were marvellous to me on Saturday, just marvellous. They pulled me right back. And I never thought of pulling out." But Hobson will regret his own little essay in that annual exercise in fictionlessness, the listing of hobbies in the Boat Race programme. The Oxford cox, Seth Lesser, played safe and claimed "decadence, luxury and self-indulgence".

But Hobson listed "Scuba diving and re-shaping barges". Photographs, back page

Muslims reject Gemayel reforms

From Robert Fisk Lausanne

President Amin Gemayel and his Lebanese Government delegates were in a state of near despair yesterday as their failure to reach agreement with their opponents at the Lausanne reconciliation conference threatened to destroy the ceasefire in Beirut and driving the talks here to the point of collapse.

Shia Muslim and Druze leaders rejected Mr Gemayel's proposals for constitutional reform during the morning while reports reached the delegates that the truce along the front line through the centre of the Lebanese capital had all but broken down, killing at least 15 people.

Mr Wajid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, claimed that the Lausanne talks had turned into a "bazaar" and might have to be continued in the Swiss towns of Montreux or Nuchatel.

"If we do not return (to Beirut) with something substantial," he said, "we shall be liquidated by our own people. We have to get something substantial. Otherwise we cannot stay in this luxurious chateau while people are being killed."

Christian and Muslim representatives suggested that if the opposing Lebanese militia and political leaders did not compromise, the Syrians would at last step in with their own concrete proposals, backed up by threats of military action.

Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice-president, was locked in apparently angry discussions with Mr Gemayel, with Saudi representatives, in an attempt to save the conference.

One delegate said Mr Khaddam was "reading the riot act" to the Lebanese. Certainly, the failure of the conference now would make a mockery of Syria's political victory in Lebanon.

President Gemayel presented his 27-point reform proposals yesterday morning. They included an increase in the power of the Sunni Muslim Prime Minister, administrative decentralization, a new supreme court of justice and a parliament divided equally between Christians and Muslims.

Mr Nabih Berri of the Shia Muslim Amal Movement, and Mr Jumblatt, rejected the parliamentary proposals, arguing for a national assembly whose members would be chosen on the principle of one-man, one-vote.

It is the Syrians who now have most to lose at Lausanne as their demands for political success are repeatedly ignored by the rival Lebanese delegates. If Israel is slowly extracting itself from the Lebanese morass, Syria may be slipping back in, and there is growing suspicion in Lausanne that even if some formal agreement is reached, it may not be worth the paper it is written on.

Howe rejects French proposal on EEC

By Henry Stanhope

The French proposal that Britain's net contribution to Common Market funds should be limited to £750m, more than twice the £300m which Britain sees as fair, was "plainly unacceptable", Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

"We have made clear our position over a long time. That gap between £300m and £750m is rightly seen as a large one for Britain. But spread throughout the

Community especially among those states that have been net beneficiaries, it became a much smaller one, he added.

Interviewed on ITV's Weekend World on the eve of the crucial EEC Summit in Brussels, Sir Geoffrey said: "Britain is willing to remain a net contributor on a modest scale. We regard our membership of the Community as enormously important and I think the other partners recognise the importance of Britain as part of the Community."

There had been a big shift in attitudes over the months and the French, now holding the presidency of the European Council of Ministers had been playing an important part.

But the debate, he said was not a great battle between France and Britain.

Critical 24 hours, page 6

Leading article, page 13

Cox's valiant comeback fails to pip Dark Blues

By Simon Barnes

It was the biggest bish in Boat Race history. One moment of cocking aberration wrote off a £7,000 boat, postponed the race for 24 hours and made certain that the name of Peter Hobson will become part of Tideway legend.

"There are no words that can describe how I felt," said Hobson, the Cambridge cox who steered his boat full tilt into a stationary barge before the race could start on Saturday. "It was the worst nightmare in the world coming true."

Cambridge finally took to the stake-boats yesterday (after giving the barge a spectacular wide berth) in a boat borrowed from the Amateur Rowing Association after their watermen, John Allen and Alf

Twinn, had spent the night rigging it to fit the most intimate specifications of their crew.

They became the fastest Cambridge crew ever to row in the Boat Race, but had the misfortune of racing against the fastest crew of all time Oxford beat the old record by 13 seconds and Cambridge by 12, to be greeted at the finish by the disconcerting apparition of a man apparently hanging from Chiswick Bridge, but it was not Hobson.

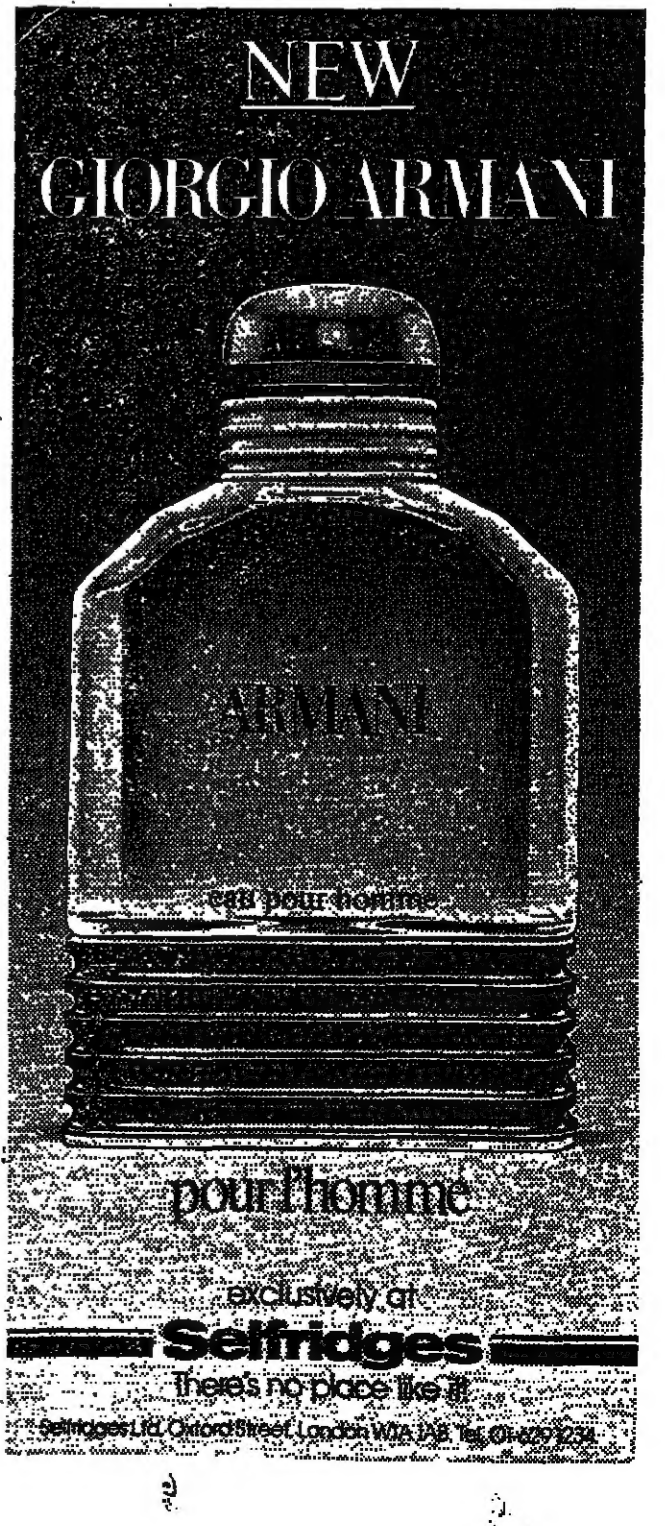
"The borrowed boat was better than ours," the Cambridge No 5, John Garrett said. "But we weren't used to it, so it was still a slight disadvantage." As they took to the water, lying outside their boat-

house at Putney were the remains of their own boat, once so dainty, so rakish, and so canary-coloured, now smashed beyond repair. And Hobson, so a Cambridge coach said, steered the finest course he had seen on the Tideway for many a long year.

As for the crash itself... "It is the one day in the year in which the river is closed," Hobson said. "So I was steering my nautical course. The last thing I expected was a barge in the way. It wasn't there the day before, and I just didn't expect it to be there."

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Lawson hints at VAT extension with second-tier, lower tax

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is considering the introduction of a second, lower rate of value-added tax to soften the blow as the tax is gradually extended to other areas during the next five years. It would appear that fresh food is the only item of expenditure which, for the moment, is ruled out as a tax target.

Although there was no mention of any such plan in last Tuesday's Budget statement, or even in last year's election manifesto, the Chancellor has spoken of his long-term purpose in a private briefing with Sunday newspaper correspondents. The size of the second value-added tax rate, and its scope, were not specified by Mr Lawson.

However, he made plain that he intends to continue the course started by his predecessor, Sir Geoffrey Howe, of switching the burden of taxation from income to expenditure.

Mr John Biffen, leader of the Commons, put the political perspective on Mr Lawson's plans when he said in a speech last Friday: "The true Tory radical seeks lasting change, and lasting change is secured by steadfastness rather than by erratic zeal".

Mr Lawson plans a steady, "bit by bit" extension of value-added tax - to raise the revenue for a reduction in the burden of

income tax. He hopes that the resulting retail price index increase will be less than 1 per cent a year.

But he has dismissed Sir Geoffrey's hope that the extra revenue might be used to reduce the rate of income tax to 25p in the pound. Instead, he proposes to increase tax allowances, while taking long-awaited action to reduce incentives for working wives with a change in the wife's earned income allowance.

A government Green Paper, *Taxation of Husband and Wife*, was published by Sir Geoffrey in 1980, but no action has been taken. Mr Lawson plans to issue another discussion document and he intends to introduce reform.

On the subject of taxation, the June manifesto said simply: "Further improvements in allowances and lower rates of income tax remain a high priority". In Sir Geoffrey's first Budget in 1979 the old two-tier rate of 8 per cent and 12.5 per cent value-added tax were "unified" and raised to 15 per cent.

The Conservative action reference book, *Common Guide*, says that value-added tax was a straightforward tax to collect and difficult to evade. "It is also fair to poorer people because untaxed goods, such as food, heat, and light, bulk large in their expenditure."

National Gallery finds it owns 'lost' masterpiece

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The National Gallery has found itself the owner of an original work by the seventeenth century painter Guido Reni after cleaning what was thought to be a copy of a lost original.

The painting, "Susannah and the Elders", was purchased by the gallery in 1844, but downgraded as a copy 50 years ago. In recent years it has been on display in the basement reserve collection, until removed for restoration last year.

According to Mr Michael Helston, the gallery's curator of late Italian painting, the work's quality became apparent after the removal of heavily discoloured varnish that had obscured much of its detail.

The gallery catalogue lists the work as "probably no more than fair condition under very discoloured varnish". It adds: "Comparison (with another work) suggests that it is indeed no more than an old

copy, or at best a workshop piece".

The removal of the varnish, by applying solvents to the surface, has uncovered a wealth of fine detail on the heads of Susannah and the elders that was previously hidden. Mr Helston believes that Reni was responsible for the heads of the figures, much of the flowing depiction of the robes, and the general outline of the painting. However, the study left the minor details to his pupils.

Parts of the work show evidence of repainting and other aspects, notably a clumsy, executed hand on Susannah's shoulder, suggest that the work is not pure Reni.

It is possible that the gallery's painting is the original that once hung in the Imperial Collection in Vienna but was later thought lost. The earliest reference to the painting dates from Rome in 1787.



Picket watch: The markers go up on a map in the operations room of Scotland Yard's control centre where police movements, and those of National Union of Mineworkers flying pickets, are charted. The centre was set up on the Yard's thirteenth floor last Wednesday (Photograph: Peter Trievnos).

TUC to vote on boycott of Neddy

By Our Labour Editor

Trade union leaders will decide today whether to sustain their boycott of the National Economic Development Council (Neddy) in protest at the ban on unions at Government Communication Headquarters, Cheltenham.

The 51-member TUC general council is likely to be sharply divided over what further steps to take after a temporary withdrawal from "Neddy". Union moderates, led by Mr Len Murray, the general secretary, want to end the boycott.

There is no recommendation before the general council after its influential economic committee was split 9 to 9 on a proposal to stay out of Neddy and its committees until the TUC conference in September.

The moderates may make a compromise move to forestall such a long period of absence from the only top-level forum that brings together the CBD, the unions and Government ministers. However the antagonism created by the Cabinet's firm stand against unionization at GCHQ has cut across traditional political boundaries.

TUC committees have however agreed not to withdraw from a wide range of other joint bodies.

Both sides see hope in pit vote results

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The ballots in eight areas of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) last week provided ammunition for militants and moderates alike, but National Coal Board analysts believe that the area results point to an overall vote against industrial action.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, was quick to point out that even in Nottinghamshire, where opinion had been affected by picket line violence, the vote for a strike was 7 per cent higher than in the poll in March, last year.

There was a marked swing toward militancy in other areas. In north Derbyshire, traditionally a "barometer" area, the men were split 50-50 whereas only 38 per cent wanted industrial action a year ago. In moderate Northumberland, the men voted 52 per cent for striking (35 per cent last year) though that was attributed to the wording of the ballot paper, which asked if they were prepared to strike over closures in their own area.

Among the craftsmen in the North-east, who have lost much money in the overtime ban, now almost five months old, away out of the present chaos.

THE MINERS VOTE HOW IT IS CHANGING

		Percentage for strike	
		1983	1982
Numbers NUM area			
3,800	Cokemakers	9	22
500	Cumberland	42	38
9,700	Derbyshire	38	40
11,800	Durham	39	31
2,200	Kent	66	69
2,200	Leicestershire	18	13
11,200	Midlands	21	23
4,300	Northumberland	52	32
900	North Wales	23	24
28,700	Nottinghamshire	19	21
5,600	Lancashire	19	21
10,800	Scotland	59	44
2,800	S Derbyshire	17	12
17,300	S Wales	66	59
51,400	Yorkshire	54	56
15,100	Durham mechanics	Understood 15	16
1,800	North's d mechanics	Understood 15	32
3,900	Scots craftsmen	Partial ballot	49
15,200	Colliery officials and staff	12	15
4,000	Mide craftsmen	No ballot	19
Net result		39	39

Taken from 1983 poll figures

Free meals 'but no deal'

Striking miners' children will be given free school meals from today by a council whose schools will be allowed coal supplies by the children's picketing fathers.

The Labour controlled Mid Glamorgan County Council had

sent a team including its director of education to speak with the leaders of the miners who are guarding the stockpiles at National Coal Board yards. But the council and the National Union of Mineworkers deny that they have struck a deal.

Heath calls for answers over Oman contract

Mr Edward Heath criticized the Prime Minister yesterday for refusing to answer detailed questions about the £300m Oman University contract awarded to Ceneration after her official visit to the Gulf in 1981. (Our Political Correspondent writes).

He said in a "phone-in" on the London commercial radio station LBC: "The sooner questions are answered, the better".

The former Prime Minister's intervention is certain to heighten Mrs Thatcher's dilemma over the issue.

It was decided late last week that the "morass or innuendo" connecting her public role in "battling for Britain" and the private role of her son, Mr Mark Thatcher, as Ceneration link-man in the deal, could only be stifled by Downing Street silence.

Number 10 disclosed on Thursday that Mr Jamil Amyuni, a friend of Mr Thatcher and Middle East director of Ceneration, had been at two social engagements attended by the Prime Minister in 1980 and at the end of last year.

'Hidden' Chinese in London

By Pat Healy, Race Relations Correspondent

An all-party committee of MPs will be told today that the number of Chinese living in a London borough could be between 1,000 and 5,000.

The vagueness reflects partly the lack of any firm statistics, but also the isolation of the Chinese in Britain.

Because of the Chinese emphasis on self-reliance they seldom make demands on British society and thereby become noticed.

However, the community of Chinese people is hidden more because many of them find it difficult to communicate with authority.

Many of the older generation of Chinese settled in Britain simply do not speak English, have no idea that they have rights to services as residents, taxpayers, and voters, and if they did, would not know where to turn.

Two Chinese children, for example, worried a ward sister in a London hospital when they seemed to be spending long periods at the hospital with no adult supervision. Their father was a patient at the hospital and their mother worked full-time.

It was only when the sister asked for an interpreter from

Changes in charity rules urged

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Charity Commission is urged in a report published today to review its guidelines to allow charities to campaign for changes in the law or in government policy and practice.

The report, by the National Council for Voluntary Organizations, says that if the commissioners are unwilling to take such action legislation should be introduced "to restore charities' freedom to engage in advocacy".

Charities, it says, should be completely free to argue for or against changes in the law or in government policy or practice, provided that that is a means of achieving their charitable objectives.

The report is based on responses from about 200 charities and individuals to the council's consultative document last year proposing reforms in charity law.

Noting a more relaxed attitude, and a "marked change in practice", from the commissioners, the report says that warnings by them about campaigning activities "seem to have become so rare as to constitute an endangered species" and that amicable relations have been restored between the commissioners and outspoken charities such as Christian Aid and War on Want.

It praises the chief commissioner, Mr Denis Peach, for his efforts to change the law and welcomes the recent extension of charitable status to organizations dealing with race and community relations. Those developments do not, however, go far enough, it says.

The report urges a clarification of the law so that charitable status can be granted to those involved in creating jobs, promoting human rights, and providing information and advice in the interests of social welfare.

It calls for the setting up of a fund of £250,000 a year to help to pay legal fees of charities challenging charity laws in court.

There is overwhelming support, the report says, for an overhaul of the registration system under which all charities with an income of £15 and over must register. That should be increased to at least £100 to stop the system being clogged.

Modernising Charity Law (NCVO, Bedford Square, London WC1; £1).

Shortlist of eight for opera building

The £55m extension of the Royal Opera House in London, which will cover one and a half acres of Covent Garden, is unlikely to follow the classical lines of the opera house itself (David Hewson writes).

The management has drawn up a shortlist of eight architects, including Ahrends, Burton & Koralek, creators of the controversial plans for an extension of the National Gallery, and Richard Rogers, architect of the Pompidou Centre in Paris.

The new buildings will provide the opera with new dressing rooms and rehearsal areas paid for by shops and offices.

Mr Robin Dartington, director of the project, said that conventional theatre architects had been excluded from the list. The project involved reconciling the style of the opera house with that of its nineteenth-century surroundings.

"We want a development which, in some way as yet unspecified, is a natural extension of the theatre merging into a commercial scheme."

Because it involves a change of use of sites and listed buildings the plan is expected to result in a public inquiry.

Mr Dartington said that it was quite possible that one or more of the architects would produce a classical plan. "But it is a very large site and one single building type could be rather boring."

The problems of the site were one reason why the opera house had opted for an open selection to choose an architect, instead of a competition.

The shortlist of eight will now respond to test briefs before being whittled down to five. Work on the site is scheduled from 1986 to 1992.

The shortlist consists of: Ahrends, Burton & Koralek; Richard Rogers; YRM Architects and Planners; Jack Diamond; Building Design Partnership in association with Jeremy Dixon, Frederick Gibbard and Partners; Nicholas Hare; and Edward Cullinan and Partners.

London's arts lose in switch of funds

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

London arts companies will be the losers in the Arts Council's new grants strategy which will be announced on March 30.

The switching of arts funds to the regions will threaten the existence of one of the main London orchestras, the Hayward Gallery, and the Royal Court Theatre.

The radical rethinking of the council's grants strategy is also likely to close its own literary panel since the body now believes that literature is more likely than other areas of the arts to find support elsewhere.

The council's headquarters in Piccadilly is the scene of intense lobbying from some of those threatened in the hope that there may be a change of mind. Final decisions are to be confirmed a week on Wednesday, and are to be made public two days later.

Those companies that lose their support will be given 12 months' notice and the chance to appeal against the decision. But the broad shift of emphasis in the council's outlook will make the possibilities of a successful appeal remote.

The review of the body undertaken since Sir William Rees-Mogg took over as chairman and Mr Luke Rintoul as secretary-general has concluded that the organization is unfairly biased towards London at the expense of the regions.

The new strategists believe that the council has achieved its objectives in the capital, but fallen short elsewhere. It is argued that with four orchestras, including that of the BBC, London is over-provided for.

The council has guaranteed that it will maintain its grants to the four national companies - the English National Opera, the National Theatre, the Royal Opera House, and the Royal Shakespeare Company, which last year received more than £26m. But it is acutely aware of the contrast with the level of backing in the regions. Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre received only £405,000.

Tunnel 'could save £30m on Severn Bridge work'

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Heavy lorries could be kept off the Severn Bridge and most of the £33m on repairs saved if a second crossing was built in the form of a tunnel, British Steel and its fellow tunnel promoters said yesterday.

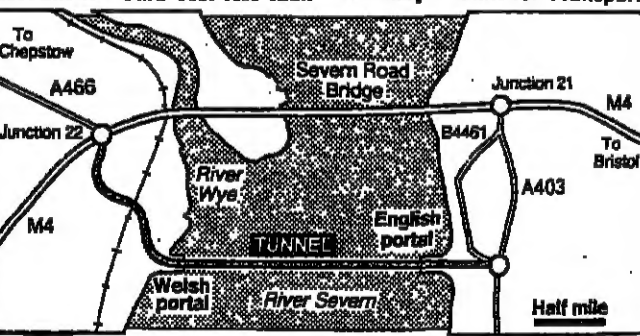
The tunnel would be laid just over a mile south of the bridge and heavy lorries would be diverted to it on link roads from the two roundabouts on either bank.

A tunnel would take only four years to build compared with six for the proposed repairs programme. If a £30m saving on bridge repairs is taken into account it would cost less than

£100m - about the same as a second bridge.

According to British Steel and its European partners, a tunnel would dramatically reduce the fatigue loading of the bridge, extend its life indefinitely without extensive repairs, and increase its capacity by 50 per cent.

The tunnel would be prefabricated and laid in a trench. The Department of Transport said the tunnel was one of the options, together with a second bridge or a barrage, to be considered in a two-year study ordered by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport.



Park boost to business

The first polytechnic science park, to be known as a technopark, will be opened this week in south London with the purpose of creating new jobs and revitalizing a blighted corner of the capital's landscape (our Education Correspondent writes).

The park - a creation of the Polytechnic of the South Bank - is being funded with £6m from the Prudential Assurance Company.

The idea behind the park, which will deal solely with new technology, is to link the resources of the polytechnic with small businesses in purpose-built units on a derelict site next to the polytechnic, near the Elephant and Castle.

Building will take place over the next year.

Heart and lung patient 'making slow progress'

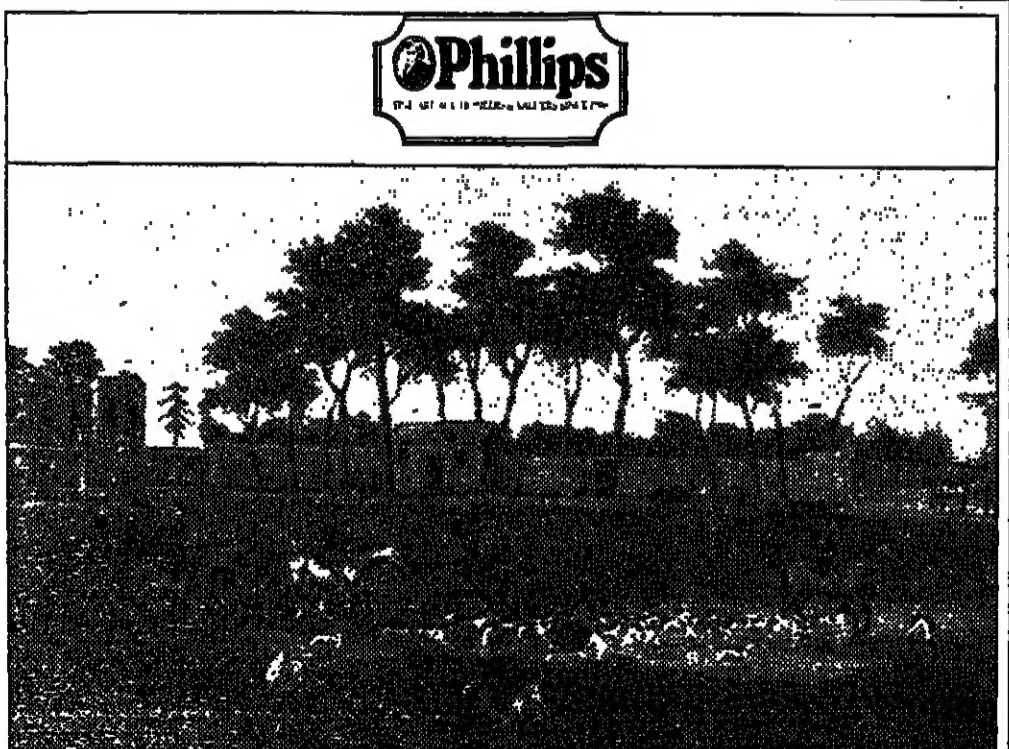
Mrs Joan Jones, aged 48, the first Briton to have a combined heart and lung transplant was "making slow progress" in Harefield Hospital, Middlesex, yesterday, after her 15-hour operation on Thursday.

The hospital said that Mrs Jones, of Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, was in a stable condition but remained in intensive care on a ventilator machine.

The only previous heart-lung transplant in Britain was performed at Harefield on Swedish sports journalist, Mr Lars Ljungberg, aged 32, last December. He survived the operation, but died two weeks later when his kidneys failed.

Mr George Stevens, a photographer, aged 36, of Barnston Park Grove, Edinburg, was given a new heart in an operation lasting nearly four hours on Saturday at Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$25; Belgium 10; Canada 20; France 15; Germany 10; Italy 10; Japan 10; Netherlands 10; Norway 10; Sweden 10; Switzerland 10; USA 10; West Germany 10.



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Defendants acquitted in magistrates' courts may gain right to costs

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Defendants acquitted by magistrates' courts may get the right to have their costs paid from public funds under the independent prosecution service proposed by the Government.

The right to costs is suggested in a consultation document drawn up by an inter-departmental working party considering the awarding of costs in criminal cases under the new prosecution service.

At present courts have power only in indictable cases to award costs to acquitted defendants from central funds and against the prosecutor.

In summary cases costs from central funds are not available, and an acquitted defendant can be compensated for costs only if a court orders the prosecution to pay.

The working party, which is under the Lord Chancellor's Department, recognizes "there are arguments in principle for acquitted defendants in summary cases being able to recover their reasonable costs on the same basis as for indictable cases" - that is, except where there is a reason to the contrary, such as where the defendant's conduct misled the prosecution into thinking the case was stronger than it was.

The working party says the amount of money involved may be significant, and that would have to be considered before a decision.

The document comes after the publication last year of a White Paper on the establishment of a national prosecution service for England and Wales independent of the police. The Government is now considering submitted comments.

The report lists options how the awarding of costs may be extended in summary cases.

The prosecution could bear them, and the service could be funded on the basis that it would not win every case, and costs would be paid out in percentage of cases.

That would "reinforce the responsibility of an independent prosecution service for its policy in deciding which cases to prosecute", and would be an added discipline. However, the working party says "it may be argued that the prosecution should not be seen to have a direct financial interest in the outcome of proceedings."

A middle course may be to put a special cost fund for acquitted defendants in the hands of the minister responsible for the service.

Under the new service, courts would lose their present financial sanction to refuse the

prosecution costs from central funds when dissatisfied with the conduct of the case. Instead, the document proposes that courts should be able to report such cases to the head of the new service.

Courts would also keep their powers to award costs against parties so that if, through mismanagement or inefficiency, the prosecution caused the defence unreasonable expense, it could be ordered to pay towards its costs. The same would apply to the defence.

Other proposals, on which comments are invited by April 27, are that fees for barristers working for the service should be fixed in advance or assessed by the service, instead of by the courts, as at present, thus bringing their pay under more direct control.

Similarly, rates for solicitors working for the service would not be assessed by courts but negotiated directly with individual firms, taking account of present legal aid rates.

Local and other public authorities would no longer be reimbursed from central funds for prosecutions they bring but some of those costs would be offset by the central funds available for part of the police prosecution work.

Advertising 'would cut legal costs'

Solicitors' fees would fall and standards rise if they were permitted to advertise their conveyancing charges, the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising said yesterday.

In a letter to the Lord Chancellor and the Under-Secretary of State for Consumer Affairs, the institute says "advertising leads to competition and innovation which brings prices down. This is borne out by the American experience where advertising by lawyers has cut the cost of some types of legal work, such as wills and uncontested divorces, by up to half."

"Contrary to the view put by the Law Society, we believe that price advertising will raise the standards of service to the public because it will encourage innovation and greater efficiency."

It adds: "Increased competition and lower prices does not mean lower profits for solicitors. The evidence from overseas suggests that a fall in prices brings an increase in demand for professional services."

Fear for consumers after Telecom sale

By Bill Johnston, Technology Correspondent

Telephone subscribers in the future will not be protected properly from British Telecom nor will Post Office users be adequately served because of piecemeal closures of offices, the Post Office Users National Council (POUNC), the consumer watchdog, says.

The council, in its monthly newsletter, blames government policy on both counts.

The first concern of the council is over the Government's policy on telecommunications and the telecommunications. Bill which will implement it.

The council says: "We have remained concerned about the continued absence from the Bill of any provision for an independent dedicated consumer body at national level with the freedom to publish its views on tariffs and any other aspects of customer service."

"In our view OFTEL (the new Office of Telecommunications - the regulatory body being set up by the Government) will neither be an adequate nor independent consumer advocate in view of its conflicting responsibilities to consumers and all sectors of the telecommunications industry."

The council is also concerned over the Post Office's intention to close some of its offices. The corporation announced in February its intention of spending £100m to automate 9,000 offices in the next decade.

The Bill, which is making its way through Parliament, will create OFTEL, transform British Telecom into a private company, and empower the Government to sell part of it. It is still the Government's intention to begin the sale of 51 per cent of the corporation this autumn.

POUNC has called for the Bill to be amended to make it the duty of the new director general of OFTEL to set up an advisory body to protect ordinary telephone subscribers.

British Telecom will operate subject to a licence provided by the Government, the conditions of which are also criticized by POUNC.

POUNC believes that the conditions are not rigid enough and should be strengthened in relation to rural telephone kiosks and the mechanisms for controlling British Telecom's prices.

The council is also concerned over the Post Office's intention to close some of its offices. The corporation announced in February its intention of spending £100m to automate 9,000 offices in the next decade.

Average family spending on food reaches record

The average British family is spending a record £35.56 a week on food, an increase of more than £3.20 in the past 12 months, according to government figures published today.

The Ministry of Agriculture's national food survey says average expenditure on food bought for consumption in the home is 10 per cent higher now than 12 months ago, an increase of twice the rate of inflation.

Expenditure for each person is £8.89 a week, 23p more than in the previous quarter, and 81p more than the fourth quarter of 1982.

Household consumption of liquid milk has risen to 3.78 pints a person a week, although cheese consumption is down slightly to just over 4 oz.

Butter consumption is also marginally up because of lower prices, and margarine sales are down.

The purchase of eggs has fallen over the year, while sugar consumption is up to 10½ oz a week.

Average purchases of beef are up over the year, but sales

of lamb and pork have fallen. Overall, there was a small fall in the consumption of red meat to 14.8oz a person a week.

However, there has been a more than compensating increase in the total purchases of other meats and meat products, particularly of poultry. Consumption of fish declined over the year.

There has been the usual seasonal increase in household consumption of potatoes, rising to 43.4oz a person a week, although that is slightly less than a year earlier.

Consumption of green and other fresh vegetables also fell, but purchases of processed alternatives increased. The average consumption of fresh fruit is also lower than a year before, partly because of reduced supplies of apples from gardens and allotments.

Total household consumption of bread is averaging 30.5oz a person a week, nearly 0.7oz less than in the corresponding quarter of 1982. Consumption of tea and coffee are up over the year.

Tight jeans 'protect the injured'

Tight jeans can act as survival clothing in road accidents and doctors are advised not to be in too much of a hurry to cut them off accident victims, according to an article published in the *British Medical Journal* yesterday.

The article cites the case of a man wearing jeans who arrived at Westminster Hospital, London, after an accident. Although he complained of pain in his abdomen and hip he was not shocked. His condition remained stable until 25 minutes later, his jeans were cut off. Immediately "the leg was seen visibly to expand, his abdomen distended and he collapsed with an unrecordable blood-pressure."

Shelter posters defend homeless

Homeless people are not feckless or inadequate, according to the first of a series of fact-sheets issued by the housing group Shelter to dispel "prejudice" about the growing number of people without permanent housing.

Shelter is planning posters and newspaper advertisements "to eradicate the ignorance that makes so many dismiss homelessness as insignificant or the homeless as undeserving."

Keeping track of offenders

A team of part-time "trackers", led by a social worker, is being recruited in North Yorkshire to check the movements of offenders aged between 14 and 17.

The scheme starts in April in the Whitby, Scarborough, and Ryedale areas as an alternative to custodial sentences. Offenders will agree to follow an approved daily routine and the trackers will make spot checks.

Downs oil test

East Sussex County Council's environment committee has voted to allow Carless Exploration to drill a 5,000ft oil test well at High Park Farm near the South Downs beauty spot of Ditchling Beacon, near Brighton.



Blitz bunker: The disused Underground station where Churchill found safety during air raids (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Churchill's secret 'No 10' in Down Street

By Alan Hamilton

When the subterranean doors of Churchill's War Cabinet rooms beneath Whitehall are finally thrown open to tourists in three weeks' time, the queues are expected to rival those to see the Crown Jewels and Lenin's tomb. As the shuffling crowd gazes its longful of heady nostalgia they will be forgiven for not knowing that, at the height of the blitz in the winter of 1940, the great man was somewhere else entirely.

His burrow, 63ft below street level, was a mile away below Down Street, Piccadilly, in a disused tube station which since the end of the Second World War has been seen by few but a handful of London Transport engineers installing

and tending signalling equipment for the Piccadilly line.

Down Street, closed as a station in 1932 but still recognizable from the street by its glazed-tile Piccadilly line architecture, was transformed into a bomb-proof headquarters for the wartime Railway Executive at the start of the hostilities, its passages and platforms converted to offices, dormitories, bathrooms and a well-equipped kitchen. In his memoirs Churchill recalls that he slept a total of about forty nights here during the blitz, while the Whitehall bunker was being strengthened with an additional raft of concrete.

On other evenings the Prime Minister would arrive at Down Street by armoured car as the bombing was beginning, descend in the two-man lift and

take over an office to work at his papers until 1am, when the bombing had eased.

Little remains today behind the well-locked door, down stairs and passages of Stygian gloom and filth with dust, the remnants of gas-lock doors, a cracked handbasin or two, the decaying bones of the wartime telephone exchange, and a few fading direction signs on the walls. Every few minutes a train clatters by behind a single thickness of bricks, where the offices were built to the edge of the old platforms.

Mr Gerald Hayes, a retired railway official who worked in Down Street for much of the war, recalls that the street door would be opened to the Prime Minister by LMS dining car stewards, doubling as special constables, who did not always

recognize their visitors.

"Churchill would always bring his own food with him, especially soup, despite there being a fully fitted kitchen down there. He seemed quite unperturbed by the noise of the trains on the other side of the wall, but he could not stand the ticking of the clock in his borrowed office; every night he came he ordered it to be stopped." He would occasionally take an underground bath, and would shout dictation to his secretary through the bolted door.

Yet another bunker was prepared for Churchill and his Cabinet at about the same time, at an underground location known as "Paddock" in Hampstead, thought to have been an unfinished station on the Northern line.

Worldwide alert for Woburn silver

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

The police and dealers in world antiques markets have been alerted for the silver stolen in last Thursday's £5m robbery at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire.

Descriptions of the 47 items have been passed to Interpol. Within Britain Scotland Yard's art and antiques squad will circulate descriptions to dealers. The pieces are well known, but it is thought unlikely that the thieves would melt them down. One possibility is that a buyer could have ordered the silver and could be planning to add it to a private collection or sell it in some years' time. The raiders will probably receive little more than £1m.

Yesterday Bedfordshire police's incident room reported no developments. The police believe that the robbers may have driven very close to the Abbey before climbing in with a ladder. Grass near the house showed tyre marks.

How the raiders evaded security precautions within the Abbey has not been disclosed, but the raid is similar to several in the last year including the £500,000 robbery at Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire.

At both Waddesdon and Woburn it was possible to visit the house and view the potential haul and to test the security by wandering away from the public areas and seeing how long it took for someone to notice the intruder, or by using children to test the alarms on paintings or other items, apparently inadvertently.

The raids emphasize the vulnerability of houses in large grounds. At Woburn a public road runs through the grounds and it would have been easy to drive away unnoticed.

The Abbey walls are so solid that a vehicle can get very close without being heard. The raiders could have been away on the A5 or M1 less than 90 minutes after they drove in.

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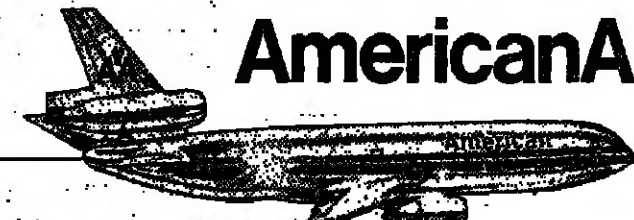
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Widow to fight plan to exhume husband's ashes

Mrs Jacqueline Armstrong, a magistrate at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, said yesterday that she would fight a local rector's plan to have her late husband's ashes exhumed to allow a £200,000 church extension built.

She has asked the Bishop of Coventry, the Right Rev John Gibbs, to intervene in the dispute. The bishop said yesterday: "I do not know all the details and I have not had any discussions with the vicar."

The ashes of Mr William Armstrong, who died five years ago aged 53, are buried in a casket beneath a cedar of Lebanon tree in the churchyard of St Margaret's, Whitwash, Leamington. The Armstrongs, both keen conservationists, planted the tree 10 years ago in memory of his parents.

The Rev Anthony Gardner said the development was needed because only 250 people could get into the small church and between 300 and 400 were arriving for services and many had to be turned away. He added: "I understand her concern."



Flying start: Rupert Anderson, aged two, striding out at Dartmouth, Devon, yesterday in one of 200 events across the country in aid of the British Olympic squad. The child, who has trained with his father, Dr Tony Anderson, since he was 12 months old, managed one and a half miles of the six-mile course and raised £30.

Universities warned of threat to come from information resolution

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Universities are threatened by the information revolution because it will be possible soon to receive much of the education now provided by such institutions by using a television, a video recorder and a mini-computer at home.

Sir Douglas Hague, a former economic adviser to the Prime Minister, made that prediction in his first speech as chairman of the Economic and Social Research Council.

Sir Douglas suspected that universities would find it difficult to come to terms with the information revolution.

"We may say that the problem for manufacturing business is that it will have to compete with the Pacific," he said in a speech to be released today.

"The problem for service industries is that they must

compete with the household. The problem for the universities is that they will have to compete with the information revolution."

Sir Douglas, delivering the Maud Lecture at Manchester University, posed two questions.

Could those who do the job "manage" the education system so that Britain made a success of the fourth industrial revolution? Could those in charge of the research councils nationally "manage" what was being done there?

Business schools could teach much about leading effective businesses but they were not good at teaching information technology.

"Three years ago information technology might have been taught in a business school," he said.

"Now, major companies claim that they have to go to a computer manufacturer or a private consultant instead. When it comes to understanding how to integrate manufacturing - and also science - into the business and to identify the appropriate technology for its systems there is a danger that British business schools will actually be left behind their clients."

Business schools and university engineering departments were being criticized for the same reason. Sir Douglas suggested that they came together and he proposed the formation of a strategy unit which would report to the Advisory Board for the Research Councils.

"I would see its ethos as being to challenge orthodoxies, to promote learning within the ABRC."

'Millions wasted' by micro misuse

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

British companies are wasting millions of pounds in buying the wrong microcomputers, the Industrial Society says.

The society, which is holding a conference in London next week on the effectiveness of new technology in Britain's offices, says: "Some organizations are buying some many different types of micros so quickly that their cost effectiveness and any central control are being lost completely."

The society concludes: "Although we are all delighted by the rapid growth of new technology in the office, there is now evidence that millions of pounds may be wasted because there is now evidence that millions of pounds may be wasted because there is no longer overall company policy and control."

Our experience shows that, although some micros are being used most effectively, others are being woefully misused. Particular departments buy their own micro without reference to the compatibility or the main-frame of the overall company policy."

Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, will today announce an extension to the Government's Microelectronics Industrial Support Programme (Misp) which has already spent £50m since 1978 encouraging the development of microchip technology. More than 40 companies have benefited from the scheme.

Computer training crisis feared

By Andrew Cornelius

A £100m government initiative to boost information technology by bringing new blood into Britain's universities is being threatened by a shortage of suitably qualified teaching staff, according to the chairman of the state-backed National Computing Centre.

Professor John Ashworth, who is also Vice-Chancellor of Salford University, says that the training of the next generation of information technology students is being held back because the best qualified

teachers are being "head-hunted" by industry.

Leading electronics companies are offering annual salaries of £30,000 to £40,000 for good software engineers, and £40,000 to £50,000 for computer programmers, Professor Ashworth said.

The same people would be paid only £20,000 a year if they took a senior university teaching position, he added.

The University Grants Committee gave a warning last year that the poor quality of

response for information technology positions at universities reflected the strong competition from industry.

The problem will be highlighted again when the National Computing Centre publishes its annual report later this year. Professor Ashworth says that the centre, which employs 450 people in London, and provides computer training and research for industry, is underspent by £300,000 in its annual staffing budget of £7m.

Doctors find heart attack signals a year early

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

An important study has begun to discover how accurately people are heading towards a heart attack can be identified as much as a year in advance by assessing aspects of their moods, attitudes and behaviour.

The study, by Professor Arthur Crisp of the department of psychiatry at St George's Hospital medical school, London, comes after research that he and two colleagues carried out on the symptoms of heart attack victims.

They found, using detailed questionnaires, that a year before the onset of heart attacks, some potential victims had displayed high levels of sadness, anxiety, fatigue and loss of libido. Two out of three of the individuals questioned were correctly identified as heading towards heart attacks.

The new study aims to apply the same system to test its predictive accuracy. "If we can find a way of accurately identifying people at risk, we may be able to help them avoid a heart attack," Professor Crisp said.

Other studies have indicated how stressful emotions can play a part in the build-up to a heart attack. Some types of behaviour, such as competitiveness, aggression and impatience, have been identified as symptoms.

The study, conducted by Professor Crisp, with Miss Maria Queenan, of the same department at St George's, and Dr Michael D'Souza, was published in The Lancet at the weekend.



Mr Keith Castle (centre), Britain's longest surviving heart transplant patient, with Mr Paul Matthews and his fiancée, Linda Taylor, before their departure from Heathrow airport yesterday on a sponsored trek from Kathmandu, where they intend to marry, to the Mount Everest base camp (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Aids article 'alarmist'

The Mail on Sunday was justified in reporting the risk that patients might contract Aids from transfusions of blood imported from the United States, but used extravagant and alarmist terms not justified by the evidence, the Press Council said yesterday.

The council upheld a complaint against the newspaper to the extent that the story about Aids, the acquired immune deficiency syndrome, should not have been treated in such unqualified terms.

Dr Peter Jones, director of the Northern Region Haemphi-

lia Service, in Newcastle upon Tyne, complained that the newspaper published an inaccurate and highly exaggerated story about blood transfusion supplies, causing needless distress and suffering. Under the front page headline, "Hospitals using killer blood", the newspaper reported that blood imported by the National Health Service from the US could be threatening the lives of thousands of British people. It said that the sexually transmitted killer disease was present in contaminated blood used in transfusions and operations.



Out of court: Police subduing an unidentified man in Fall River, Massachusetts, after two Portuguese immigrants had been found guilty of raping a young mother on a bar pool table. The case against four others continues today.

Mitterrand finds a peace formula in schools battle

From Diana Geddes, Paris

After more than two years of proposals, counter-proposals, mass demonstrations and bitter dispute over the future of France's 10,000 predominantly Roman Catholic private schools, the Government has finally come out with a compromise plan which satisfies no one totally, but which may at last bring peace to the school battleground.

The proposed changes, which guarantee the continued separate existence of private schools with full autonomy over their educational, administrative and financial affairs, are a far cry from the Socialist Government's original intention to integrate private schools into a single, secular system of state education.

The Catholic Church, which runs 93 per cent of the private schools, is still very worried, however, about the Government's plan to reduce the school's present powers to hire and fire their own teaching staffs. The state would, in future, have some say in that process, and all teachers in

private schools would be entitled to enter into a contract with the state giving them greater job security.

The Catholic Church has acquiesced in the Government's three other main proposals concerning the financing of the private sector. In future, private schools would be subjected to the same criteria of funding and staffing as state schools and would no longer be able to open or close classes at will. Local authorities would be required to supplement state funds for private schools on the same basis as state schools.

The Government has given in entirely on the most hotly contested issue - the right of parents to send their child to the private school of their choice. The Government had originally proposed that parental choice should be limited to a defined catchment area.

There is at present no choice at all for parents of children in the public sector, but the Government has indicated that it will introduce an experimental scheme in 15 towns next

year giving parents a choice between schools within a certain radius from their home.

The Socialist Party, the Communist Party and a majority of state school teachers from which the Socialist Party draws much of its strength, are not happy about the *de facto* continuation of a dual education system. But President Mitterrand, who has taken close personal interest in the debate, insisted on an "honest compromise" and believes that that has been achieved.

A Bill containing the Government's proposals is expected to go to the Cabinet for approval early next month, before being submitted to Parliament. Despite the broad agreement of the Catholic church, it can be guaranteed a stormy passage by the Opposition, which has been busy exploiting the private schools issue to its own political ends.

Two million children, representing 15 per cent of the total school population, attend private schools.

Uganda Army steps out of line

Kampala (AFP) - Uganda's Army commander, Major-General Tito Okello, has admitted that there is public discontent with the behaviour of some of his officers, Uganda Radio reported.

He did not mention any officers by name but he stressed the importance of discipline. An undisciplined officer was "extremely dangerous" in any army, he said.

The General, who was speaking to a meeting of officers at Army General Headquarters in Kampala on Friday, said that civilians were "mere servants".

He said civilians pay, clothe and feed the soldiers, as well as buy their weapons. Soldiers must respect civilians and protect their lives and property.

The radio also reported that the 36-man Commonwealth military training team which has been in Uganda for the last two years training army officers at Jinja, 50 miles east of Kampala, will wind up its work at the end of this month.

The team will be replaced by military training staff from Britain, which has contributed half the members of the Commonwealth team.

Njonjo is accused of anti-Moi plot

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi

After working quietly for more than two months, a judicial inquiry into the conduct of Mr Charles Njonjo, the former Constitutional Affairs Minister, has been hearing startling claims. One of these is that Mr Njonjo, one of the most experienced politicians in Kenya, tried to enlist the support of other MPs for moves apparently aimed at reducing the power of - and even replacing - President Daniel Arap Moi.

However, the evidence to this effect, given by some backbench MPs, is somewhat lacking in factual backing. It has also been strongly challenged by Mr Njonjo's counsel, Mr William Devereil, who suggests that the witnesses are either making up the whole thing or are imputing sinister motives to well-meaning attempts by Mr Njonjo to help them.

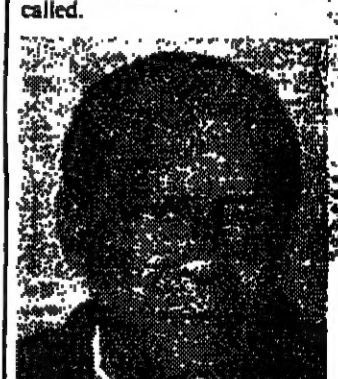
Three High Court judges, headed by Mr Justice Cecil Miller, a Guyanese, have been sitting since early January. They are ordered by President Moi to investigate allegations that Mr Njonjo had sought to undermine him with the backing of an unnamed foreign power, and to discover whether he was in any way connected with the attempted coup there in 1982, or with the notorious attack on the Seychelles in 1981.

In nine weeks of hearings, the judges heard allegations that Mr Njonjo failed to pay for his excess baggage when flying by a state-owned airline, held several diplomatic passports at the same time, and supported the applications of some South Africans to visit Kenya, exceeding his powers in the process.

Mr Njonjo has all along denied these allegations, and has insisted that he has always been loyal to President Moi.

It is not clear why it took so long to call as witnesses some of the MPs alleging that Mr Njonjo wanted to see Vice-President Mwai Kibaki removed from office.

Mr Njonjo attends the proceedings daily, immaculately dressed in his customary three-piece suit with rose buttonhole. He will have the opportunity to give evidence in due course. But nobody knows how long the inquiry will continue, or how many witnesses are still to be called.



Mr Njonjo: Denies all the allegations.

West Germany and high technology: The missed opportunity

Bonn wakes up to challenge of the chip

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Have the Germans missed the third industrial revolution? Has postwar success in traditional industries made West Germany so complacent that it has lost the race to America and Japan for mastery of microelectronics and the high technology industries of the future?

These questions are now being asked here with an urgency verging on panic as West Germany suddenly wakes up to the challenge Silicon Valley poses to its industrial prosperity and finds itself slumbering in the technological atmosphere of the 1960s.

For the Federal Republic has now discovered with alarm that not only is it slipping behind in research and innovation in such vital areas as information technology, but that the computer revolution has not yet caught on here as it has elsewhere. Whereas Britain now has "chip shops" in every high street, and a programme to make every schoolchild literate in computers, most young Germans are ignorant and suspicious of the new world heralded by the home computer.

The issue has become a hot political topic as West Germans ask themselves why their own computer industry has not really got anywhere, why industry has refused to take risks in the new technologies, why so many young people are anti-technology and what is wrong with an educational system that has so far ignored the challenge of the chip.

Three months ago, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, brought the debate on to the front pages of newspapers when he stated bluntly: "Whoever visits Japan finds a country in which state and society face the future full of vigour. Whoever visits the United States finds... an atmosphere marked by confidence and optimism, a vision of a high technology society opening up undreamed-of possibilities."

"Whoever returns home is struck by the whining cultural pessimism throughout our country. Green ideologists and those who think like them preach fear of life, fear of technology and fear of the future," he added.

In the two key fields of the future, microelectronics and biotechnology, West Germany had already missed the boat, he said.

The Government, however, does not think it too late to catch up. Herr Heinz Riesenhuber, the energetic Technology Minister, has just announced an unprecedented DM 3,000m (£770m) package of measures to close the gap with Japan and the United States.

ing micro-chip applications and sub-micro technology.

Industrialists point out that West Germany is Europe's largest semiconductor user, in absolute terms and on a per capita basis, coming third after Japan and the United States. In research and development spending, West Germany still equals these two countries. People here have been warned against "hysterical forecasts of a technological Stone Age", which, they are told, will tarnish the nation's industrial reputation.

But there are other worrying statistics. Since the late 1960s, West Germany has imported more high technology, especially microelectronics, than it has exported, and this trend has accelerated. The German computer market is now dominated by the Americans, especially IBM, with only one successful independent company, Nixdorf. An industrial climate favouring security over risk-taking has not fostered the small, innovative companies that have led the way in America and Britain.

West Germany does have its high technology subliminal in the south, especially around Stuttgart and Munich, but there is no symbiotic concentration of industry and research as in California. Plans to turn West Berlin into a silicon enclave are still in their infancy.

Germans blame the missed opportunities on past mistakes and present attitudes. One past failing was insistence on thinking big: big research, big

support from abroad, an influx of weaponry and the state of the Gulf War.

Thousands of Kurds, either about to be called up or already conscripted, fled into the mountains. Many returned to the towns when they felt an accord was near completion.

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WHO

GIVES AWAY OVER £9 MILLION A MONTH?

MPs urged not to change pill guidelines

By Our Science Correspondent

The British Medical Association has written to every MP enclosing a leaflet which explains why it believes that doctors should remain free to prescribe contraceptives to girls aged under 16 "in exceptional circumstances" without their parents' consent.

The association has acted to make its position clear to politicians because of a campaign to change the guidelines from the Department of Health and Social Security to general practitioners. The guidelines allow doctors to use their discretion in prescribing the pill to girls aged under 16. Many MPs have signed a petition demanding the change.

Dr John Havard, the secretary of the BMA, said yesterday: "Doctors do not prescribe contraceptives in order to encourage girls to have sexual intercourse. However, in nearly all cases girls who see doctors for contraceptives are already having sexual intercourse and have been doing so for some time."

"Forcing doctors to inform the parents will not stop them. It would simply discourage them from obtaining medical help. This would lead to an increase in unwanted pregnancies, the consequences of which can be very serious for young girls."



Dr John Havard

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Njonjo is accused of anti-Moi plot

Shaken Mondale gets welcome boost but Hart still a headache

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr Walter Mondale, proclaiming "a national victory", won the Michigan and Arkansas caucuses on Saturday and took the lead in Mississippi, giving his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination a badly needed fillip.

The Rev Jesse Jackson scored his greatest success to date by winning a popularity vote in Mississippi - meaningless in terms of selecting delegates, but an important psychological blow in his drive to win the black vote.

Under the complex state rules for Mississippi Mondale has won most of the delegates but Mr Jackson claimed a moral victory. The important prize for Mr Mondale was Michigan - to have lost there, where he has been heavily favoured, would have been disastrous.

The final Michigan result is expected to give Mr Mondale 50 per cent against 32 per cent for Senator Gary Hart, his main contender for the nomination. Mr Jackson took about 14 per cent.

Mr Mondale's success was in part due to the support of organized labour and ally whose muscle will be felt in other primaries and caucuses in industrialized states. The impact of the AFL-CIO has been patchy. It was not nearly so helpful in earlier battles in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Governor James Blanchard of Michigan, a Mondale supporter said: "The Hart snowball melted in Michigan. It was a must win for Mondale, and he carried it off." In South

See how they run

The following reflects the results of primaries and caucuses to select delegates to the Democratic National Convention. The figures do not include Saturday's caucuses, which are still incomplete, in which 251 delegates were at stake.

Despite withdrawing from the race, Senator John Glenn still has one delegate committed to him. Mr Mondale leads with 373, Senator Hart has 256 and Mr Jackson 37. There are 212 uncommitted delegates. The magic number required to win the nomination is 1,967 of the possible 3,933.

Future contests, with the number of delegates each state sends, include: tomorrow - Illinois primary 194, Minnesota caucus 86, Saturday - Kansas caucus 44, Virginia caucus 25, March 27 - Connecticut primary 60, March 31 - Wisconsin caucus 89, April 3 - New York primary 285.

Carolina on Saturday, Mr Jackson, the native son, lead Mr Mondale and Mr Hart but still trailed behind the number of uncommitted delegates. A total of 251 were at stake in the four state caucuses. Super Saturday was Mr Jackson's best showing so far - he also took a large number of votes in Arkansas.

But the day belonged to Mr Mondale. "This has been a good national win for me," he said.

"We did well on Super Tuesday. We did better today. We are fighting back."

But the results still leave his camp worried. In a state tailor-made for him - union support, the backing of all important local Democratic politicians and a voting record in Congress which stands well with car-workers - he could hardly lose.

Against those odds, Mr Hart's vote was respectable, especially since he hardly campaigned in the state, although there was heavy television and newspaper publicity. He said he spent only a day there and claimed the result was an "extraordinary achievement" in a state "where the process was stacked against us".

Mississippi is likely to give Mr Mondale about 30 per cent, Mr Jackson 27 per cent and Mr Hart 12 per cent, with 30 per cent uncommitted. It was a state Mr Mondale should have won. It appears that the exceptional number of uncommitted voters had broken away from him but are not yet sure about Mr Hart.

In Arkansas, Mr Hart made only a token effort and the final result looked like giving 20 delegates to Mr Mondale, nine to Mr Hart and six to Mr Jackson. The latter received heavy support from black districts in the eastern and southern parts of the state.

Mr Jackson was delighted by his overall performance. "It shows it as a legitimate three-man race," he said. "Our campaign is getting strong. It continues to grow."

Local feud could swing Illinois primary

Race wide open as the Chicago machine falters

From Nicholas Ashford, Chicago

In the days when the late mayor, Richard Daley, ran Chicago, the outcome of presidential primaries in Illinois was never in doubt.

Chicago and surrounding Cook County account for about two-thirds of the Democratic vote in Illinois. Whichever candidate the mayor endorsed, the city's Democratic machine delivered.

However, the machine though still powerful, is no longer the dominant force in either state or city politics since Mr Harold Washington broke

its stranglehold last year by becoming Chicago's first black mayor.

As a result, tomorrow's primary is wide-open and most pollsters and political south-sayers admit they cannot say whether Mr Walter Mondale or Senator Hart will win or even how much of a spoiler's role the Rev Jesse Jackson will play.

As always, when national politics reach Chicago, there are prominent local issues involved. Unlike the other primaries which have taken

place this year, Illinois voters must choose candidates for state, local and party offices as well as presidential candidates and 116 of the 194 delegates the state will send to the Democratic convention in San Francisco.

Judging from posters around Chicago, many Democrats are more concerned with local races than with the presidency. The most important of these - and one which could help to decide the outcome of the primary - is between Mr Washington and his chief rival, Mr Edward

"Fast Eddie" Vrdolyak, leader of the white rump of the Chicago machine. They have been locked in a bitter power struggle for the past year.

Mr Vrdolyak and the machine are backing Mr Mondale, who also has the support of unions representing more than a million workers in Illinois. However, support from the machine can be two-edged, as Mr Mondale has tacitly admitted by avoiding being seen in public with Mr Vrdolyak.

Although the machine can

deliver the vote of many traditional Democrats, it also alienates many independently minded voters, the sort of people who are swinging to Senator Hart.

Mayor Washington is backing (but has not endorsed) Mr Jackson, who has his political base in Chicago. The mayor appears more concerned with his battle with the machine - Senator Hart has the backing of the former mayor Mrs Jane Byrne, which, given the scale of her defeat last year, he could gravely do without.



Spoiler's role: The Rev Jesse Jackson, who will be fighting from his political base.

Egypt and Sudan on alert after air raid is blamed on Libya

By Our Foreign Staff

Relations between Libya and Egypt deteriorated sharply over the weekend as the controversy over who bombed Khartoum continued. The crisis began on Friday when the Sudanese Government announced that a Soviet-built Tupolev 22 long-range bomber from Libya's Jufrah air base bombed the government radio station at Omdurman, a suburb of Khartoum, killing five people.

Yesterday Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, directly accused Libya of complicity in the attack as the armed forces of Egypt and Sudan were placed on full alert. As a result of the incident, Egypt and Sudan decided to invoke their 1976 defence pact providing for mutual support in the event of outside attack on either country.

According to the Sudanese Government, the attack, in which the Libyan bomber dropped five bombs was inspired by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

"Libya holds responsibility for the attack," Mr Ali told

reporters in Cairo after a telephone conversation between President Nimeiri of Sudan and President Mubarak of Egypt. "Evidence has been established from the type of bombs used and the aircraft, a TU 22, which only Libya owns."

Military sources in Cairo said that after the Egyptian Army went on the alert security points were tightened at strategic points.

Mr Ali added that Egypt would take both military and political steps in the event of a further attack.

As the crisis deepened, President Mubarak exchanged messages with President Reagan. According to press reports from Washington, the United States and Egypt were considering an emergency airlift of military equipment to Sudan.

Sudan also sent messages to the United Nations, the Arab League and international organizations seeking their support.

Meanwhile, the Libyan Government yesterday called in Arab and African ambassadors in Tripoli to deny formally any involvement in the bombing.

Poles trot out party slogans

From Our Correspondent Warsaw

Poland's Communist Party yesterday ended its first national meeting since the Solidarity upheaval and martial law by appealing for peace, praising Soviet proposals and condemning the threat from American missiles.

Delegates sent a message of reassurance to other Eastern bloc parties that the Polish communists had effectively checked the threat from counter-revolutionaries.

Speakers at the party conference expressed concern about the expanding influence of the Church, blaming believers for showing a lack of tolerance by attempting to place religious symbols in public buildings.

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, said, there was no need for State-Church conflicts and attacked political opponents for using churches as "rally halls" and creating friction over the separation of Church and State.

Leading article, page 13

Jail and the lash for Zia critics

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

Three student leaders have been jailed for a year by a Peshawar military court, sentenced to 15 lashes and each fined 100,000 rupees (about £3,300) for demonstrating against the regime of President Zia ul-Haq.

The students belong to the Islami Jamiatul Tuluha which staged a protest at a public meeting addressed by General Zia on March 12 in which he announced his decision to establish what he described as a truly Islamic democracy.

According to the student union, the defendants in the military court reiterated their determination to continue to oppose martial law.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Fazle Haq, the North-West Frontier Province governor, has said a ban on student politics was irrevocable. He deplored the support extended by "those defunct political party leaders who called themselves Islam-loving" to the student agitators.

President of Angola consults Castro

Mexico City (AP) - José

Eduardo Dos Santos, the President of Angola, has arrived in Cuba on an official visit and met the Cuban Leader President Fidel Castro soon after his arrival.

The Angolan President's first official act of the day was to place a wreath at the monument of the Cuban national hero, José Martí, during ceremonies at Plaza de la Revolución.

Among the Angolan officials accompanying President Dos Santos on the trip are the Minister of Defence, Mr Pedro Maria Tonha, and the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Evaristo Domingos.

The visit was announced at short notice and follows the recent peace moves between South Africa and Angola, where Cuba has a strong military presence.

Kasparov takes 3-1 lead

Moscow - The Soviet chess grandmaster Vasily Smyslov, who conceded defeat to Gary Kasparov in the fourth game of this world championship eliminator, declared yesterday a rest day.

The match resumes tomorrow, with Kasparov leading 3-1.

Arms for Brazil

Rio de Janeiro (AP) - Brazil announced it will buy French-made Exocet missiles for its new battleships and may also purchase Israeli-made Gabriel and Italian-made Otomat missiles, according to a press report.

Poll landslide

Nairobi (AFP) - Mr Horace Odingi, whose election as MP for Gem in Nyanza province of Kenya was nullified early this month by the Kenyan High Court, has been re-elected to the seat with a landslide victory.

Warden freed

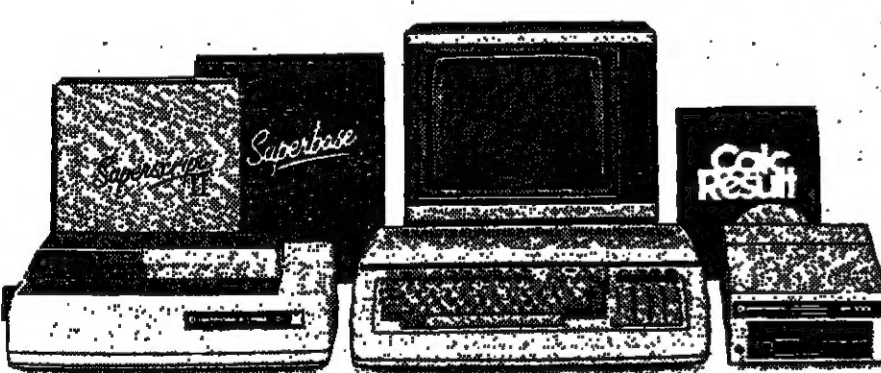
Geneva - The warden who helped Signor Licio Gelli, the Italian Masonic Lodge leader, to escape from a Geneva prison last August has been given an 18-month suspended prison sentence.

Flood peril

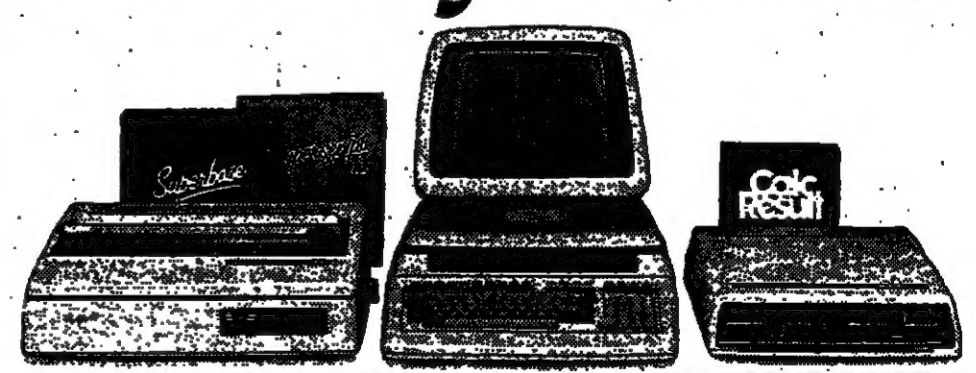
Buenos Aires (AFP) - About 7,000 people were evacuated at the weekend from flood-hit areas in Argentina's north and central regions.

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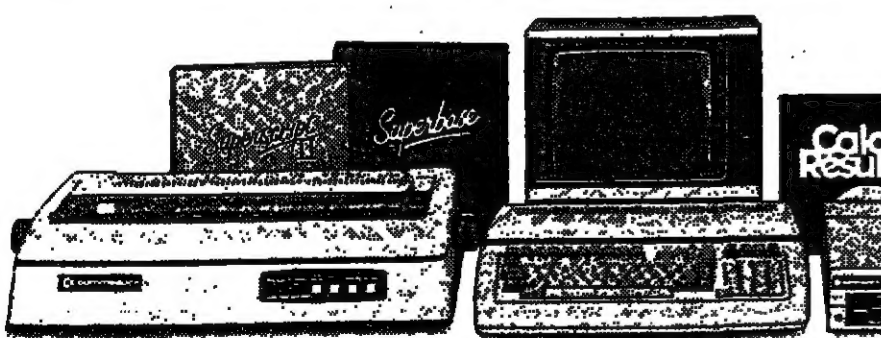
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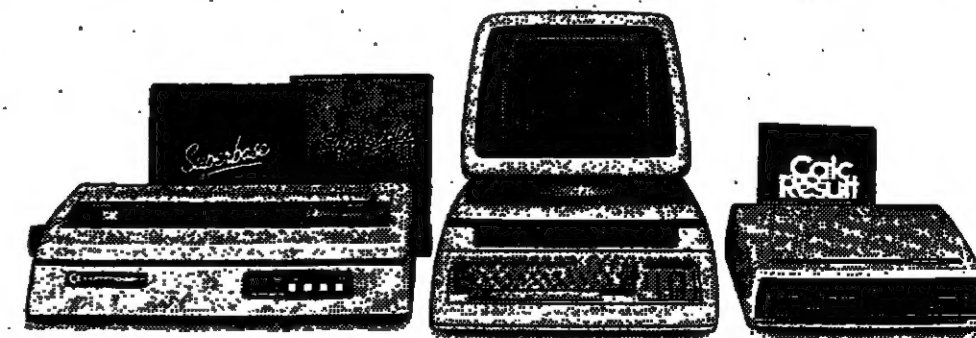
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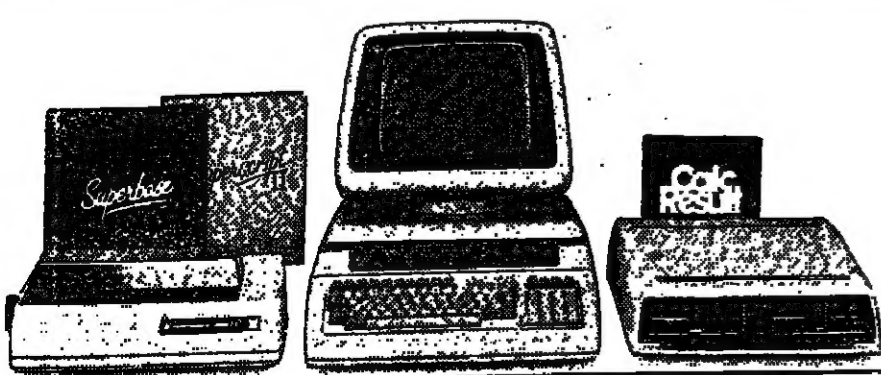
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Thatcher determined not to give way at summit

24 hours that can settle EEC future

From Ian Murray
Brussels

There is still all to play for as the leaders of the EEC sit down for lunch in Brussels today at the start of a scheduled 24-hour meeting, which must settle the whole future of the Community. The one point on which all 10 concerned so far agree is that failure could lead to disintegration of the EEC.

Despite months of argument at every level, the 10 have not yet found the basis of an agreement of the two questions which must be answered if the Community is to remain solvent both politically and economically. These are: How much should each country pay towards running costs? And how can the running costs be held down?

Mrs Thatcher gave notice in June of last year that she was not prepared even to consider increasing the Community's resources unless she is satisfied by the answer to those questions. Nothing that has been done since has in any way diverted her from that.

President Mitterrand, meanwhile, has been using his influence as president of the Council of Ministers to rally the EEC leaders. His task has been made easier because all of them stand to pay more or receive

less if Mrs Thatcher's conditions are met.

The result of his intensive series of bilateral meetings with everyone concerned over the past few weeks is that Mrs Thatcher arrives in Brussels today aware that she will be held exclusively to blame for failure at the summit.

France at last circulated a paper on Friday night which is to form the discussion document for the summit. Its 11 pages hold no real surprises. Just one page is devoted to the budget contribution question, and, in the words of a senior British diplomat, "the only thing now is a lot of obscurities".

On the positive side, the paper accepts the point that a poorer member state can be asked to contribute less if it is in difficulties over its budget payments. The size of the contribution would vary according to the relative wealth of the country, judged by the average amount earned by each citizen.

But the paper also suggests that the size of a country's contribution should properly be calculated without taking into account the customs duties and agricultural levies it sends to Brussels. The only payments which France means to take into the equation are those

derived from value-added tax receipts. By juggling with the figures in this way, the size of Britain's net contribution to the Community would be cut by about a fifth, this making the gap to be bridged that much smaller.

Needless to say, Britain does not like this idea, which has been kicked around for some months, and it will certainly be one of the most important technical arguments Mrs Thatcher is preparing to fight at the summit.

The French paper fails to give any clue at all as to how large Britain's contribution should be. Mrs Thatcher has indicated it should be cut to a quarter of its present size. President Mitterrand, after asking all the other countries, has suggested that the best she can expect is a 50 per cent reduction.

A further difficult complication is that West Germany, with Britain the only net contributor to the budget, has submitted a paper saying that it cannot accept being the only major paymaster of the Community if Britain is given a significantly reduced contribution. Meeting the West German claim would mean that the other eight countries would have to find an even bigger amount among themselves to settle the argument.

In calculating how much

Britain can afford, however, Mrs Thatcher will want to know very clearly just how firmly there will be a clampdown on agricultural spending.

The looming bankruptcy of the Community has succeeded in concentrating the minds of the ministers concerned, and the finance council seems prepared to introduce a system of tight budgetary discipline, but there is still great imprecision about how to control farm spending.

Over the past week, agriculture ministers succeeded in putting together a farm price package which it is estimated would have cut farm spending this year by some £43m, were it not for the enormous cost of subsidizing milk production, and trying to get rid of the green currency rates, which used EEC money to protect farmers from exchange variations.

In fact, the package provisionally agreed by the agriculture council on Saturday, would put up the cost of farm spending this year by about £375m this year, and another £500m next year. The cost could be kept that low only if the summit were to approve a new tax on oils and fats worth £360m in a full year - and this is a tax Britain intends to veto.

This is why Mrs Thatcher's main objective at the summit

must be to hold any increase in farm spending below the level of increase in the Community's resources. Without such an agreement, any reduction in the size of the British contribution would not stop EEC money being spent on the kind of policies which would not help Britain. The whole exercise would have been a waste of time.

With an agreement, the way would be open to negotiate membership of Spain and Portugal into the Community from the start of 1986, and for an increase in the total resources which could be spent by the Commission.

But essentially, Mrs Thatcher would rather take the blame for a failure than give way on her main two points. Were she to give way, the Conservatives could expect to lose heavily in the European Parliament elections in June, and the credibility of the Government's negotiating position in the EEC would be dangerously undermined.

For similar reasons, President Mitterrand cannot afford a failure. His Socialist Party is already highly unpopular in France, and would be a very heavy loser in the June elections if he cannot contrive a face-saving settlement in the course of the next 24 hours.

Leading article, page 13

Hopes rise that Russia will be at Olympics

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles

There is great relief among Los Angeles Olympic organizers at the announcement over the weekend that the US Government will allow the Soviet Union to dock a cruise ship in local waters and permit about 25 Aeroflot charter flights to land here before and during the summer games.

Although the Russians are not expected to say formally whether they will send a team of 800 athletes to the Olympics until around the June 2 acceptance deadline, the government decision was termed "a positive step" in bringing the Russians to the games.

During the past two weeks the concern over whether the Russians were coming grew after State Department officials refused to issue a visa to the Russians' proposed Olympic attaché, Mr Oleg Yermishkin. It was said he was a member of the Soviet intelligence service, the KGB.

The brouhaha after that incident cast a shadow on arrangements for the Soviet participation. But the Los Angeles Olympic president, Mr Peter Ueberroth, who announced the latest government decision on the ship and charter flights, said that if the Russians propose a new attaché a visa will be speedily approved and the new attaché could arrive in California by the end of March.

Officials here know that participation by the heavily favoured Soviet team is considered crucial to the games, both competitively and financially. Television income could be cut by as much as \$90m if the Russians do not come.

Mr Ueberroth said at a press conference that the Soviet cruise liner, The Gruzia, will be anchored at Long Beach about 20 miles from central Los Angeles. But the ship will not be allowed any radio transmissions while in harbour.

The ship will not be used to house athletes, Mr Ueberroth said. They are expected to stay at the team village, probably at the University of California.

The Aeroflot planes are expected to bring what is termed members of the Soviet Olympic family and their equipment to the games, as well as Russian tourists. Except for diplomatic flights, Aeroflot planes have not been allowed to land in the United States since martial law was imposed in Poland in late 1981.



Royal revels: Princess Caroline of Monaco arriving with her father Prince Rainier at the Bal de la Rose at the Monte Carlo Sporting Club on Saturday night.

Outcry as purge hits top ranks of Israeli police

Tel Aviv (AFP) - Israeli police are facing a crisis with several senior officers suspended and many more threatening to resign because of an atmosphere of "intimidation".

The crisis arose from the suspension of Chief Inspector Assaf Hefetz, head of the Tel Aviv Criminal Investigation Department, on suspicion of leaking information to the press about an investigation into Jewish terrorism.

Inspector Hefetz allegedly told newsmen that more than a year ago police had opened files on two suspected Jewish extremists later detained in connexion with an abortive attempt to blow up the mosque esplanade in Jerusalem in January.

But, he said, they did not exploit the information in time to prevent the bombing attempt which led to protests from Muslim leaders and Israeli officials.

Meanwhile Mr Brian Urquhart, the United Nations under-secretary-general, will meet senior officials in the cabinet of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, today to discuss security arrangements in south Lebanon, a government official said yesterday.

Hassan seeks US assurance

From Geoffrey Morrison
Rabat

King Hassan of Morocco, in a message to President Ronald Reagan, has made it clear that he, like other Arab moderates who have broadly supported the Americans in the Middle East, expects his good faith to be reciprocated.

The message contained the tart observation that "electoral considerations, however legitimate in purely internal terms, could not allow the United States to repudiate peace, justice and legality in the Middle East."

Its immediate purpose was an appeal concerning Jerusalem. He said the whole Islamic world was shocked to learn that the US Congress was considering legislation which would recognize the laws and administrative acts made by Israel during its occupation of Jerusalem.

Heikal lobs another literary grenade

From Christopher Walker
Cairo

Mr Mohammed Heikal, the most prolific, controversial and best-selling political author in the Arab world, sank back into the elegant Harrods upholstery of his flat overlooking the Nile and gave a mischievous grin. "It will blow everything sky-high. It will be slaughtered", he said with thinly-disguised glee.

The subject in question was his forthcoming book (his twenty-fifth), on relations between the press and politics in the Arab states, an often murky and thinly-researched area, which, as former editor of *Al-Ahram*, Egypt's most influential newspaper, as Information Minister under President Gamel Abdel Nasser and as a political prisoner under President Anwar Sadat, he is eminently qualified to write.

Mr Heikal's last book, *Autumn of Fury*, a bitter and personalized indictment of the last days of an increasingly paranoid Sadat (who once described him as "my public enemy number one") recently,



Mr Heikal: "It will blow everything sky-high".

passed the 1.4 million mark in Arabic sales alone. This, Mr Heikal told me proudly, makes it the best-selling book in the language after the Koran.

Even in Egypt, where it remains firmly on the banned list, under the personal orders of Sadat's less flamboyant successor, President Hosni

Mubarak, the account of the events leading up to the assassination in October 1981 has sold 250,000 copies under the counter, at a black-market price equivalent of nearly £20. Well-thumbed copies are a common sight in Cairo's opposition circles.

Although the book infuriated many Egyptians and lost Mr Heikal a number of local admirers, its staggering popularity throughout the Arab world was seen by many as confirmation of how unpopular the unashamedly corrupt regime of Sadat had become, notwithstanding his popularity in the West. "It was an indictment of a whole policy, not a man," Mr Heikal said, puffing on one of the giant cigars which, like his affluent way of life, belie his almost guru-like appeal to the Egyptian left.

"The appearance of the book about Sadat last May led me into a spring of fury. They vilified me in the papers here for months, but they could not stop the copies being smuggled

in. In the Arab world you cannot stop an idea. It will be the same in the new book if they should try to prevent that."

Mr Heikal, who started his career as a cub reporter on the *Egyptian Gazette*, covering the Battle of El Alamein, refused to disclose much about his new book. He would not even say whether it identifies the Egyptian minister who is known to send transcripts of his interviews (including suggested headlines, questions and his own answers) to selected Cairo reporters.

After the storm caused by *Autumn of Fury* (now going into its sixth English printing), Mr Heikal began work on the five-volume biography of Nasser.

"Then the whole role of the press here and in other parts of the Arab world - something I have often thought about - began to crystallize and I finished the book in six months. I have just handed the final draft to the publisher. Ironically, many Arabic newspapers had already purchased the serial rights, subject unknown."

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Hopes rise that Russia will be at Olympics

From Ian Davis
Los Angeles
There is great relief and excitement in the Soviet Olympic delegation as the announcement was made that the USSR will be allowed to compete in the Los Angeles Olympic Games. The Soviet Olympic Committee had been told that the USSR would be allowed to compete in the Los Angeles Olympic Games. The Soviet Olympic Committee had been told that the USSR would be allowed to compete in the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

Salvador guerrillas go on the offensive again to undermine elections

From John Carlin, Chinameca, El Salvador

The guerrillas have signalled their intention, both in words and action, to raise the temperature of El Salvador's civil war as the countdown begins for presidential elections next Sunday.

One of the top five commanders of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), Señor Joaquín Villalobos, announced on the rebel radio on Saturday that the four-year war against government forces would intensify and that there would be no truce "before, or during and after the elections".

Hours before he spoke, FMLN guerrillas had entered San Miguel, the largest city in eastern El Salvador, and attacked the headquarters of the Army's Third Brigade with mortars. Sources said the guerrillas had set up mortar and machine gun positions 300 yards from the army stronghold.

Since Tuesday, the commander of the brigade, Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, has been leading a 5,000-man operation, the biggest of the year, against rebel positions in the north-east of the country.

While the Army was wearing itself out in the hills up north, we attacked him in his home," a guerrilla near San Miguel said on Saturday afternoon.

Colonel Monterrosa heard of

the attack over his radio, while he was in San Antonio, 30 miles north of San Miguel, on Saturday. According to reports, troops with him were then ambushed three times by guerrillas.

Elsewhere, small contingents of guerrillas had taken control of two stretches of the country's principal road, the Pan-American Highway, half an hour's drive from San Miguel. They immobilized 23 buses and 18 large lorries and gave political speeches to some 800 people they had ordered off the vehicles.

On Friday, guerrillas reportedly outflanked and routed an army unit near Suchitoto, 30 miles north of San Salvador. Another group attacked army defences and seized control of San Sebastian, a small town 30 miles west of the capital.

After a lull since the beginning of the year, the guerrillas are clearly rampant again, attempting to regain the initiative they had for the last four months of last year, a disastrous period for army morale.

The timing of the present offensive appears to contradict recent claims by FMLN leaders outside the country that the guerrillas would not disrupt the elections.

The guerrilla field commander in Chinameca, near San Miguel, made it clear in a hurried interview on Saturday

that the offensive had begun again "after a period of re-accommodation". "Now we will begin to operate again to break the back of the electoral plan and, at the same time, to make the Army look ridiculous", Comandante Fito, a veteran of seven years' fighting, said.

The campaign against the electoral force will extend itself. Our forces are stronger and more unified than ever before," he said.

The guerrillas on the Pan-American Highway had been taking away the identity cards of all the people they had ordered off the buses. "They took everyone's cards away," one woman said. "They did it because without our ID cards we cannot vote."

A man next to her said the guerrillas had said they could get back their cards the day after the election, in Chinameca and the town of Jucupá.

The Mayor of Chinameca said the guerrillas had been confiscating identity cards from surrounding villages during all of last week.

In Suchitoto, an American photographer for *Newsweek* magazine, John Hoagland, was shot in the back and killed on Friday in a crossfire between guerrillas and government soldiers.

Hoagland was the twelfth journalist to be killed covering El Salvador's civil war.



War-torn: A girl walks among the ruins of a house destroyed during fighting in San Sebastian, 30 miles from the capital.

Ex-leader hides in Bissau Embassy

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Mr Vitor Saude Maria, the former Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau, who was dismissed from his post on March 10 by President João Bernardo Viera, was still taking refuge yesterday in the Portuguese Embassy in the capital, Bissau. Saude Maria scaled the Embassy wall on Thursday after covering the 300 yards that separated the Embassy from his residence, where he was being held under house arrest.

President Viera has accused Mr Saude Maria of being involved in economic offences and of having "exaggerated political ambitions". He also accused him of trying to enlist military officers to overthrow the Government. Until recently the two men were considered close friends and both had taken part in the coup which overthrew former President Luis Cabral in 1980.

The Portuguese Government instructed its Ambassador in Bissau to give protection to Mr Saude Maria and was reported to be hoping to negotiate a safe conduct out of the country for him. Those hopes were dashed on Saturday night when Mr Cabral Almada, the Foreign Minister of Guinea-Bissau, said on a stopover in Lisbon on his way to Paris: "Mr Saude Maria will never leave the Portuguese Embassy in Bissau and there will be no safe conduct for him or his wife."

West puts its ideas for Unesco shake-up

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A document recommending wide-ranging changes in Unesco's financial, administrative and structural organization has been drawn up by the 24 Western member states and submitted to Mr Amadou M'Bow, secretary-general of the troubled United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The US Congress has already set up an investigation into allegations of financial

inefficiency and malpractice within the organization's Paris-based secretariat, while a number of Western countries, including Britain, have indicated that they are considering following the US decision to leave Unesco at the end of this year if radical changes are not made.

Mr M'Bow announced early last week that "in order to put a stop to untruthful allegations against him, he would welcome

the establishment by the competent authorities of Unesco of an international commission (of inquiry).

The Unesco secretariat put out another statement later in the week denying an Agency France-press story which claimed that Mr M'Bow had asked member states for "a vote of confidence" at the next meeting of the executive board in May.

It also pointed out that Mr

M'Bow's readiness to welcome an international inquiry did not mean that he had asked for such an inquiry to be set up.

Western diplomatic sources emphasized that the document submitted by the Western group of nations to Mr M'Bow was "not an ultimatum, or a shopping list of changes that must be made, but rather a discussion paper on the kind of things we have been expressing concern about."

UK urged to improve aid to Third World

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

A Royal Commission to review British policy towards the Third World is called for today in a report which accuses the Government of indifference to the poor in developing countries.

It has already been welcomed by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, who has promised to give it careful study, and by other leading politicians, including Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr Edward Heath, both of whom have used it for an attack on monetarism.

The study, *Aid is Not Enough*, is the second to be published by the Independent Group on British Aid (Igba), whose members include Mr Evan Luard, former Labour Minister; Mr John Clark, National Campaign Officer for Oxfam; Mr John Mitchell, an adviser to the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee; and other leading development specialists.

They say they want a Royal Commission representing different views and interests to look at problems facing the Third World in the present state of the world economy and to make recommendations on British policies.

They also urge the Government to establish a unit which would analyse the effect of policies on the world's poor and ask the Commons foreign affairs committee to carry out regular studies.

The report complains that government hostility to Third World positions in most international negotiations has damaged Britain's reputation. British contributions to United Nations development funds should be increased, it says, and the country should also support a reform of the voting system in organizations such as the World Bank to give the governments of poor countries a bigger share in their decisions.

The study is particularly critical of the aid, worth nearly £200m a year, which Britain channels to the developing nations through the EEC.

Senators take close look at Meese's finances

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The complex financial affairs of Mr Edwin Meese, a counsellor to President Reagan and Attorney General-designate, will be put under further intensive examination this week by the Senate judiciary committee. "I have engaged in no improper conduct," Mr Meese said in a weekend statement.

Mr Meese's financial affairs have been partly unravelled by newspaper investigations and subsequently confirmed by Mr Meese. His apparent lack of enthusiasm in revealing that he took loans from people who subsequently gained federal jobs has left the committee in a special, worried mood.

According to unconfirmed reports yesterday, the Justice Department is considering whether to open an investigation into Mr Meese's financial dealings, focusing on the requirements of the Ethics in Government Act.

Mr Meese, in his statement, urged his critics to wait until he could explain his activities when he returns - probably this week - to testify before the committee. He said there had been "false and misleading statements".

One matter still to be explored is the appointment of Mrs Gretchen Thomas to a federal job in 1982 after her husband, Mr Edwin Thomas, had given a \$15,000 (£10,000) interest-free loan to Mr

Meese's wife, Ursula. The committee will want to know if Mr Meese played a part in Mrs Thomas's appointment.

He said: "Some who oppose my nomination for the office of Attorney-General have not been content to use the committee process but have made continual public statements, not only questioning my qualifications but impugning my character and reflecting on me and my family."

The Senate hearings have already delayed Mr Meese's appointment and any investigations by the Justice Department would cause further delay. President Reagan, an old friend, has staunchly defended Mr Meese.

Mr Meese's financial affairs are not the only cause of concern. Some members of the Senate judiciary committee are challenging Mr Meese's statement that he had no knowledge about the use that was made by Mr Reagan's 1980 political campaign of material prepared for President Carter. Mr Meese was chief of staff of the Reagan campaign, which mysteriously received private papers relating to the Carter campaign.

Toivo's post

Windhoek - Mr Herman Toivo ja Toivo, co-founder of the South West African People's Organization recently released from jail, has been appointed to Swapo's ruling Politburo.

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. DOVER IS BRITAIN'S BUSIEST PORT
True ☐ False ☐
2. HEATHROW, GATWICK, STANSTED DON'T COST THE BRITISH TAXPAYER A PENNY
True ☐ False ☐
3. HEATHROW HANDLES MORE INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS THAN ANY OTHER AIRPORT
True ☐ False ☐
4. LOS ANGELES IS THE WORLD'S BUSIEST INTERNATIONAL HELIPORT
True ☐ False ☐
5. HEATHROW IS THIS COUNTRY'S LARGEST RETAILER OF PERFUME.
True ☐ False ☐
6. THE WORLD'S 5TH BUSIEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS GATWICK.
True ☐ False ☐
7. ALL NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES RUN AT THE PUBLIC'S EXPENSE.
True ☐ False ☐

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But because we're not the sort of nationalised industry you're likely to read about in the papers.

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THE ARTS

Starlight Express, which opens publicly next week, is the most expensive musical ever staged, but there is no lack of would-be backers: Bryan Appleyard reports

Human toys of the theatrical firmament

John Napier, the designer, scuttles across what used to be the stalls of the Apollo Victoria. They have been changed beyond recognition since Cliff Richard celebrated his 25 years in show business a few months ago and since Topol lumbered once again through *Fiddler on the Roof*. Napier seems to be on the run from something.

"We're not supposed to be here," he hisses. A female assistant pursues him. She had leapt from a desk at which sat Trevor Nunn, starting ahead like a watchful farmer considering whether to take his 12-horse to this latest trespasser. "John, where are you going?" demands the assistant. "Just out for a while."

Napier leads us out, picking our way through the insanely elaborate set of the most expensive musical ever. *Starlight Express* is probably about 55 per cent over its £2m budget — but such figures hardly matter. One look at the extravaganza which Napier has constructed tells you the simple truth — this show has to be a gigantic smash-hit or nothing.

It is the culmination of all the epic, spectacular ambitions which have been bubbling away in the British theatre. On the one hand *Victorian Night* has shown the drive to tell a

spectacular story and, on the other, *Cats* has indicated the aspiration towards a stunning spectacle. *Starlight Express* may not be as long as the former but its set is four times the size of the latter. "I dread this show being a hit," mutters Napier, feeling the combined strain of a year's work and his fortieth birthday. "Touring would be a nightmare."

Of course no show by Andrew Lloyd Webber has ever made sense on paper. Neither Argentine politics nor T. S. Eliot's poems for children were the stuff of which marketing dreams were made, but *Evita* and *Cats* made a lot of London angels very happy indeed. The high initial cost of *Starlight Express* may delay the pay-off rather longer but angels have been jumping aboard as if it was the head of a pin.

For a start it shares the same baffling conceptual beginnings as its predecessors — a show with no human parts in which everybody, as the world now knows, plays trains or parts of trains on the American railroad. To that it adds the suggestion of some grandiose folly, a valiant overstatement deriving its energy from the sheer cussedness with which it flies in the face of normal theatrical prudence — Napier's set has, for

example, cut the seats available from 2,700 to 1,400.

The problem with which Napier was confronted was that at some stage Nunn had the idea of roller skates. The movements of the trains would be communicated by putting the whole cast on skates. Napier responded by producing three tracks around which they can whizz. One runs in a circle round the front stalls, cutting off 200 seats in a perilous looking island — it is among these that the Queen will sit during the first Royal performance. The second runs round the back of the stalls and the third round the front of the circle.

The three rings move and interlock so the skaters can change levels. When they are out of sight of certain sections of the audience video screens will fill in the gaps. "I wanted the whole thing to have a slight hint of American football with action replays and big screens and so on," comments Napier.

Safety problems were appalling. The skaters move at up to 40 miles per hour and GLC officers have been watching cautiously. The barriers that currently enclose the runs will be gone by the time of the performance, but Napier just smiles when I ask him what will stop the trains crashing into the

punters. The whole thing is safe, he claims, at speed of up to 60 miles per hour.

Webber first mentioned the project six months after the opening of *Cats*. In February last year the team moved into a workshop phase of pre-production and by April it had become clear that the old Apollo Victoria was to be the theatre. For a time it looked as if they might not use a theatre at all. The scale of the undertaking had convinced them all that it would be best to start with one big empty space — say the National Hall at Olympia. But the Apollo is a giant among London theatres, with plenty of excess space. It is, however, outside the West End's golden mile. The show looks suspiciously like the largest investment made down Victoria way for some time.

Napier worked on perfecting a model of his set until November. He admits to becoming increasingly inwardly frustrated. The range of problems to be solved was vast, and he would have preferred to have been working with the real thing.

But now he is almost there, and watching nervously as David Hersey works out ways of lighting his set. Hersey is an American who has been in

England for 16 years during which he has established himself as probably the best and most innovative lighting designer in the business. His credits include work at Covent Garden, ENO, the RSC and the National, as well as *Cats* and *Evita*; but his key achievement has been his role in establishing the importance of lighting in the theatre.

He has been immensely lucky, hitting his peak just as shows like *Starlight Express* with their vast and elaborate technical demands came into fashion. "All they used to be interested in in British theatre was lighting on the face — illumination engineering I call it. But now people realize there is a language of light; you can make architectural statements with it."

To this end Hersey invented the light curtain, a thick, controlled sheet of light, the GOGO, a stainless steel template fitting into lights which provides a crude form of projection; and, especially for *Starlight Express*, he has come up with the intelligent spotlight. Some 72 of these will be at work, each with its own inboard computer controlling its movements and intensity.

"Of course the great thing



Rehearsal conference (l. to r.): Trevor Nunn (direction), Arlene Phillips (dancing), John Napier (design), with David Hersey (lighting) standing behind, Richard Stilgoe (lyrics)

about working with Trevor is that he never talks about lighting. Occasionally he will quietly suggest you look at something from a different angle and it's obvious what he means. He breathes life on to the stage. He has developed a kind of total theatre."

Hersey acknowledges that the refinements of his craft have arisen from theatre's need to produce rival spectacle to those

of television and film. He also knows rock concerts with their visual assault and battery have raised people's expectations. Just occasionally it all makes him want to go back to a bare stage with a handful of actors.

As for returning to the States, he has been spoiled. He did go back to Broadway to look at the possibility of lighting a new musical but "their idea of a lighting concept was whether it

was red or green", so he rushed back to London where he reckons the uniform dingy greyness of the exterior light drives him to ever more luscious combinations indoors.

Meanwhile, wandering back to the theatre, Napier remarks: "The whole thing is a very strange concept — human beings aren't really railway trains." He thinks for a further moment. "They could all be toys really."

September in the Rain

Gate, Latchmere

For the next two weeks Hull Truck Company are in Battersea with a little show that has travelled the realm from Edinburgh to Toynbee. Next stops, we reach, will be Lincolnshire and Humberside village halls. They are in for a treat.

John Godber, who is author and director and half the cast, has gone back to childhood Blackpool holidays for a richly detailed study of character as well as time and place. As an elderly Yorkshire miner and his wife recalling early married days, he and Jane Clifford relive the whole ritual: the rows while packing, the Ford Popular's sticky smell, the Preston bottle-neck, the musty boarding-house with their poky room inevitably next to the loo ("It were floosh, floosh, floosh", moans Miss Clifford).

So entertaining is the Beverley, with its blowsy landlady cohabiting with "a balding man from Lytham St Anne's" and its fellow-guest's graphic teatime stories about his work (sewage), that you only gradually notice your discoveries about Jack and Liz. There is a match of stubbornness; he a dour 17-stone mountain refusing to remove his shirt since she suggests it she accusing him of shouting when he is calm and she is yelling.

Mr Godber is wonderfully expressive with gruff monosyllables, only opening up when his pride is threatened. That

Theatre

pride has him constantly spoiling for fights, suspecting swindles, ascending Blackpool Tower with vertigo, watching Liz run off in tears rather than utter a tender word or eat a crumb of humble pie.

It rains, inevitably: two drowned rats in Pacamac make up their differences in a seafloor shelter and presently *The Student Prince* in the Winter Gardens has Jack sobbing into his jelly-babies like a big soft lass. But Miss Clifford, especially, gives you endearing glimpses of sunshine: pleasures like feeling sand under your feet even if the beach is packed solid, an ice-cream even if you queue half an hour for it, or blazing cloudless days even if September shadows fall too soon.

Anthony Masters

The Hungry Ghosts

Old Red Lion

With *Loving Women* at the Arts and *Hard Feelings* returning on television it is time we had a name for the genre of play with the first act in the 1960s (or 1970s) and the second showing the same character ten or so years later. Authors like them because they can pack in the period detail: audiences like them because they recognize it.

Actors like camping about in period clothes as Rockers or flower-children and coming back after the interval astonishingly transformed to give our portrayals of conventionality or

disillusionment. But, except in the best hands, the product's acceptable mediocrity is as predictable as a Big Mac.

Comprising two talky 35-minute acts with a 25-minute interval, C. P. Lee's is the thinnest example for quite a while, though sometimes amusing and occasionally hilarious. Starting in 1966, Michele Winstanley and Kathy Burke arrive in niniskirts, eyeshades and peach Pan-Cake. This is the bar next to the Manchester Palace where "Barry Guy" and his group are due in for a drink, so the besotted 16-year-olds are playing truant.

From 1966 to 1977 the only unchanging thing is the characters' underlying mutual hatred. This includes Tilly Vosburgh, playing a smug little cow in a yellow suit who contemptuously trails a morose Mod (Mark Aspinall) strutting in chauffeur sunglasses and Chelsea boots apparently decorated with doorcatchers. Eleven years later she is pretty, vulnerable, dying for a lover but scared of a push-off. The self-possessed Miss Winstanley is a spinsterish mother.

The remainder of the play goes by default to Miss Burke, developing from a put-upon teenager to a self-distant television personality signing photographs. She is a skilful comedienne with an engaging resemblance to Judy Cornwell, but has credibility problems playing a Granada presenter who mistakes Mahler for Bob Marley. Charlie Hanson's directions works well — at moment to moment, that is.

Anthony Masters

Opera

Rich potential unexplored

The Seraglio

Orchard, Dartford

The one thing Mozart's *Seraglio* is about is escape. Yet that is the one thing of which, once we are past the frenzied scurrying of the overture in Kent Opera's new production, we are really scarcely aware at all.

It may have something to do with Roger Butlin's very handsome designs: a set of orientalist dream interiors in the rich blues and golds of a Turkish Taj Mahal of rectangular ponds and porthole cloudscapes; a model mosque outside, pink flamingos within, and a gliding white gondola. It is all far too good to leave.

But no, the truth of the matter is that Norman Platt's production simply fails to explore the rich potential of the set's stylized fantasy. They ache for an astute animation of the work's artifice — the sort of fantasy, for example, that Italo Calvino and Adam Pollock provided for *Zaide* a couple of years ago.

Instead, even the sartorial elegance masks a blandness of individual characterization, a weakness of comic routine and dialogue (Michael Irwin's new translation), and a smoothing out of Mozart's tragicomic twists and turns.

The final crumb of revenge and demerol means little after an *Osmin* (Harry Coghlin) whose tales amount to little more than cushion-whacking, and a Pasha (Andrew Shore) whose

Television

Still not serene

Cilea's music moves by fits and starts; cliché underlines but too seldom generates the appropriate emotional response amongst the plot's complexities.

No recent performance, either, with the possible exception of Caballé's at the Festival Hall in 1974, has been able to lift the work with an *Olivero* or a *Caruso*. But none has been danted; least of all Abbey Opera, who brought Amanda Thorne, so successful in their *Tristano*, back for Adriana, and Warwick Dyer for Maurizio.

Both were fearless, and Ms Thorne more justifiably so. She, unlike Mr Dyer, had the necessary vocal stamina and sensibility if not distinction of character. Alexander Gaud's Michonnet was a dark, inward but also rigorous portrayal, balanced well by Angela Hickey's vibrant but underpointed Princess of Bouillon.

Among the adequately cast smaller roles, Gerard Delrez as the Prince and Sebastian Loew as the nicely fawning Abbé showed Abbey Opera's characteristic skills.

The musical direction of Antony Shelley made the evening tolerable if not ultimately persuasive: beyond all the quite ludicrous exits and entrances, the moments of orchestral and vocal insecurity, there was a deftness in ensemble, a sureness and strength of dramatic pacing, and a shrewd ear for orchestral balance which made it almost worthwhile.

Hilary Finch

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5 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS INCLUDING BEST PICTURE

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Albert Finney

BEST ACTOR
Tom Courtenay

BEST DIRECTOR
Peter Yates

BEST SCREENPLAY
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FROM FRIDAY MARCH 30 BIRMINGHAM Queensway Odeon • GLASGOW Odeon
FROM FRIDAY APRIL 6 **FROM FRIDAY APRIL 13** **FROM FRIDAY APRIL 27**
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DETAILS CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

Concert

LPO/Frühbeck

Festival Hall

Robert Cohen seemed concerned to persuade us that Dvorak's Cello Concerto is not necessarily the grand romantic outpouring we often hear. He preferred a quieter, more conversational approach, as if to calm down the decidedly spangled manner of the London Philharmonic's introduction under Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos.

From then on any tendency to expressive orchestral exaggeration was met with a restrained response by the cellist. His smooth legato line was always gracefully phrased, if at times lacking in finer degrees of shading. The finale acquired a dance-like character from the soloist's lightness and vivacity, and he brought the orchestra round to his way of thinking for an attractively poetic ending.

Noël Goodwin

Style Council

Dominion

When Paul Weller left The Jam and elected himself leader of the Style Council one of his main purposes was to bring some old-fashioned soul back into the pop mainstream. To his credit he has partially succeeded.

Weller's Style Council is a peculiar amalgamation but one that works at gut level. It alternates from a duo to a 10-piece, and includes a punchy three-man horn section, a vibrant percussive anchor and the secret weapon of a dual-edged keyboard sound provided by Mick Talbot and Helen Turner. Material, garnered from a clutch of inventive singles and the brand new *Cafe Bleu* album, is fresh and well suited to the Stax Volt funk jinks they imbue it with. What it lacks is a sensitive vocalist to bring all the ingredients alive, to put some blues into the undoubtedly trenchant and occasionally exhilarating rhythms.

Weller himself is a fairly one-dimensional singer, capable of

Pop music

portraying the emotional angst behind "It Came to Pieces in My Hand" or the virtuosic "Money Go Round" but ill at ease with more reflective stuff like "The Whole Point of No Return".

The featured vocalist, Jay Williamson, grew in confidence as the evening progressed but would have benefited from a less aggressive mix.

The Style Council do get as a musical force. Mick Talbot's impressive Hammond keeps the mood permanently funky à la Jimmy Smith while Billy Chapman's sax and Steve White's easy touch on drums maintained the necessary momentum to excite even the most sceptical second generation mods in the audience.

Among the highlights a beautifully understated "Paris Match" and the instrumental "Droppin' Bombs on the White House" captured the imagination while most surprising of all was a very cheery cover of Funkadelic's epic "One Nation Under a Groove" which showed Weller at his best on guitar.

Max Bell

E. J. Craddock's Publishing column will appear next week

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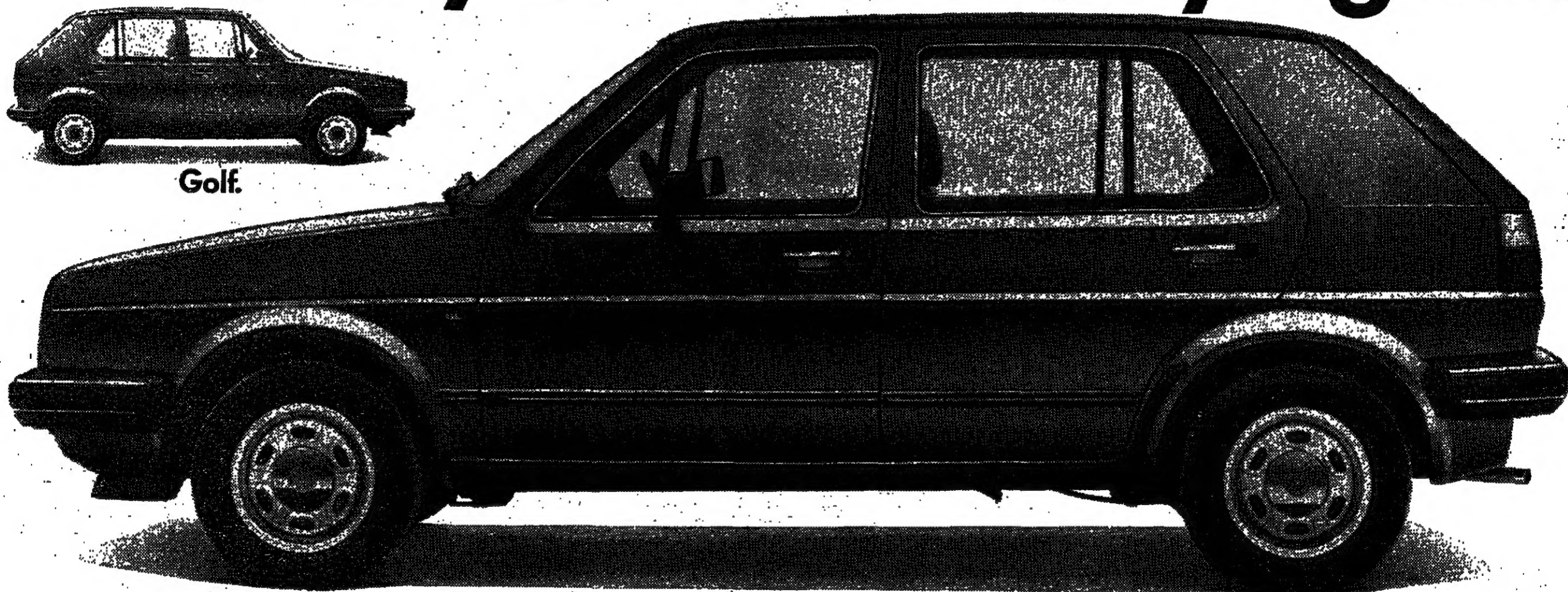
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We've greatly improved the diesel as well (65.7 mpg against the old 53.3). And while we're on the subject:

6. The petrol tank is new.

hands and knees.

Born again Golf.

Because the spoiler is under the car just in front of the rear wheels.

Rotten for impressing the birds, it's true. But wonderful for attracting the road.

Since it deflects the airflow away from the suspension.

Is there nothing left of the old Golf?

One or two things.

The bodywork and paintwork warranties: six and three years respectively. Free with every new Volkswagen.

The rear seat belts. Compulsory in our book.

The rigid steel safety cell with crumple zones front and rear. We'd never make a Volkswagen around anything less.

And for some reason, the doorhandles.

It seems the chief engineer pronounced them perfect and refused to change them for the sake of change.

Typical. Just typical.



SPECTRUM

The Men Who Would Be King

"I would rather earn my bread", that distinguished adulterer Charles X of France once crowed. "than rule like the King of England." It was, in retrospect, an unfortunate boast since today that is precisely what most of his descendants are doing. Very soon, predicted Egypt's King Farouk - after two world wars had claimed the thrones of four emperors and 11 kings - there will be just five monarchs left in Europe: the four kings in a pack of cards, and the King of England.

Our own royal family have never been so popular, but what happens to their dear cousins without a throne? Do they take with them into exile a sense of divine right, expecting to be treated like the Caesars as living gods - or do they share the view of Frederick the Great, that a crown is just a hat that lets the rain in, and that monarchy, like virginity, is once lost, gone forever? In power it is in a monarch's interest to

promote, and inhabit, the popular fairy-tale existence. One Spanish Queen refused a gift of silk stockings because it was not thought wise for her people to know she had legs. Until the midnight hour these men and women had been kept from the public eye in their ivory towers. Once their carriages changed into pumpkins they proved to possess a great deal of human nature. Ex-kings showed they not only had legs, but were also rather unsteady on them.

Deprived of their thrones, many continued to live as play-actors: they disguised themselves in dark glasses and false whiskers, and adopted names like Mr Brown, Mr Jones and Jean Prat. Their careers are, nevertheless, romantic. Ernest Hemingway used the King of Spain's father, the Count of Barcelona, as a model for one of his heroes, while King Peter of Yugoslavia claimed that his own tale "in so many ways outstrips fiction".

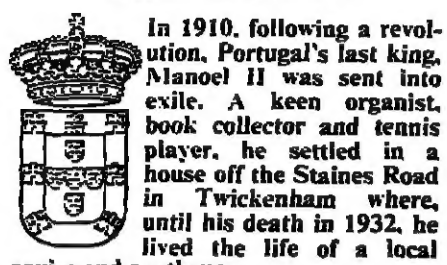
Often handicapped by their supporters, ex-kings and claimants turn out to be extremely normal people. Civilized - most have been spanked by British nannies; educated - two have doctorates; and in outlook, surprisingly democratic. With their fondness for smoking, gardening and moustaches they bear many resemblances to English country gentlemen. Some who could rely on neither suitcases of gold nor donations from supporters, have been forced into the job market. They have worked as chicken farmers, insurance executives and factory hands. Others have chosen a life of obscurity, usually in Portugal where, surrounded by miniature courts, they spend their time in remembering better days and longing for a swift return to them.

Each of them can do little but wait. They do so in the knowledge that it will take as great an upheaval to bring them back as it took to banish

them. They are not without hope. In AD 33 the Republic of Rome gave way to an Empire. In 1975 a king was returned to Spain. "Whoever calls a political form an anachronism", says Dr Habsburg, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, "shows by this he has not learnt from history."

This truism is about the only consolation to a monarch-in-waiting. However glamorous his title, he enjoys few advantages. "Someone would have to tell me what these are, because I certainly don't know," King Rehad of Tunisia told me over a brown-bread lobster sandwich in Fortnum & Mason. Besides working as a pin-striped businessman in London, he was the Shadow of God on Earth, Sultan of Mascara, Sultan of Titter, Lord of Lords and thirty-fourth in line from the Prophet Mohammed. "Perhaps if you phone up a restaurant, you get a table quicker than anyone else."

Portugal: losing colonies still hurts



In 1910, following a revolution, Portugal's last king, Manuel II was sent into exile. A keen organizer, book collector and tennis player, he settled in a house off the Staines Road in Twickenham where, until his death in 1932, he lived the life of a local squire and gentleman.

In 1950, the dictator Salazar discovered the law of exile had been illegally drafted. Until then, if Manuel's heirs were found in Portugal, it was legal to kill them. The present heir to the Portuguese throne, the young Duke of Bragança is alive and well and living near Lisbon.

Dom Duarte, Duke of Bragança, lives alone in a seventeenth century house in a village called Sao Pedro da Sintra. The bells in the fire station opposite are always going off. There are frequent fires in these hills, lit, it is thought, by the communists.

In his large, bare drawing room he offered me a glass of port. The bottle said simply 1915. As I found out, he had lost himself comfortably in the past and he talked a lot about it, clearing his throat now and then with a nervous cough. With his fine moustache and flat red face, he came across as both aristocrat and rustic.

Dom Duarte laments not only the loss of his country's sixteenth century empire, but also, more recently, the Portuguese possessions in Africa. "I was in the air force four years as a helicopter pilot, evacuating the wounded in Angola. If Portugal was a monarchy, what occurred in Angola and Mozambique would never have happened. I think some sort of commonwealth solution could have been found. And we would never have had the catastrophe of 1974-5." After the 1974 revolution in Portugal, her African territories were granted independence. "They were given up to local people."

In his Lisbon office, Dom Duarte runs an agency that rehabilitated the refugees in South America. "I will never cease to regard you, my brothers of the Lusitanian idiom, with immense affection," he promises as they pack their bags for Venezuela.

Dom Duarte is not only a philanthropist and businessman - he runs an agricultural cooperative, a kind of farmers' bank - he is also a curator working hard for the protection of national monuments. It was the



End of the line: Portugal's Dom Duarte, left; and Russia's Nicholas Romanoff



country squire. At his farm, deep in a pine forest, he occupies himself in painting watercolours, shooting wild boars and painting watercolours of himself shooting wild boars. He also paints battleships. He could name every vessel at the battle of Jutland, he said proudly - then produced a less serious project: a story in cartoons of a circular iron-clad gun boat which for 70 years sails the world without its crew having the faintest idea of the revolution at home. He has two relics of the Russian Empire, the standard carried by his great-uncle Nicholas, the white-bearded commander of the Russian army; and, the Imperial arms prized from the doorway of some consulate. "strangely enough, I'm not a monarchist, because that means I presume in advance that monarchy is the best solution for any problem anywhere, any place, any time. There are moments in history when other solutions are advisable. Of course, the advantage is you don't have to reflect the king; he's always around. He has no interest in promoting himself year in, year out. It's an extremely convenient solution so that politicians can do their work."

What were his chances of restoration? He chuckled. "I don't think it's likely at this moment, but history has such strange quirks that anything can happen." What did it mean then to be royal? "Royal is such a terrible expression, really. It more or less implies that being in exile we wear uniforms and decorations and orders. It's not that; it's the dignity of a family, its name, its tradition. And they can be well-preserved and kept in a blue shirt."

Since his father's death in 1978, and the growing schism with cousin Vladimir, Nicholas has been trying to maintain this tradition. For several years he has been custodian of the Romanoff Family Association, which aims "to unite the family - scattered all over the world - and to have every Romanoff know the family's history. But no politics: we are not concerned with dynastic matters." There are 33 Romanoffs altogether. They have been dispersed as far afield as Australia. Nicholas has traced them all except one, was last heard of working as a petrol pump attendant in Idaho. "An excellent occupation, but we can't find him."

Nicholas Shakespeare

Adapted from Nicholas Shakespeare's *The Men Who Would Be King*, published by Sidgwick and Jackson on March 29.

Tomorrow
Italy, Albania
and YugoslaviaRussia:
'Oddly,
I'm not a
monarchist'

more White Russians are looking to Nicholas as an alternative.

Prince Nicholas married to a beautiful Florentine countess divides his time between a flat in Rome and a 60-acre farm near Pisa. "The Romanoffs were

never Russian noblemen, and I am perhaps the least noble of all Romanoffs because I have too much Montenegrin shepherd's blood," he said. It gave him an appearance as healthy as his outlook. "I am stateless," he boasted. Born in the South of France, Nicholas remembers the Romanoff elders at dinner talking about St Petersburg and their estates, as if they were still existing. "God, the garden must be going to the dogs, and the house too, with the east wing burning down" - that sort of thing. During the war he fled to Rome and the umbrage of his great-aunt, Victor Emmanuel's wife. He was still there when the King fled and the Germans occupied the city. "We practically stayed indoors for eight months. When we managed to get out, I didn't know how to walk on the street." With the coming of the Allies, Nicholas got himself a job with the military. "It sounds grand, but in fact I was minding typewriters and teleprinter machines." He spent four years in Egypt, married his Countess and since then has led the life of an Italian

greatest of these that we now drove to see.

Pena Palace rises dramatically from the highest of Sintra's hills. It was built on the site of an early monastery, in a style that has as many strains as the Braganças. Gold Arab roofs and gothic turrets clash with High Victorian motifs to make it the apotheosis of kitsch. If the Duke of Bragança were king, this would be his home.

"I would never live in a place like this," he said, buying a postcard of the place. "You'd only get rheumatism. Sometimes the only cloud in Europe is sitting over this castle."

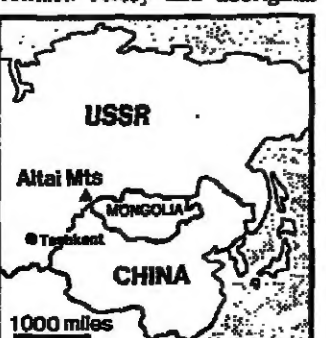
Dom Duarte is a private man. It is not for royalty to impose itself," he says, "but to be aware of the call of the people." He keeps a low profile, but is so keen to remain above politics that, living as he does in the Sintra clouds, few people are aware - or impressed - by his existence. "I once tried to join a sporting club in Lisbon, and on the form they gave me, under occupation, I put chimney-sweep. It was what I was doing at the time. They wouldn't have me."

Animal
farm

British representatives are playing an essential part in the work of the Institute of the Siberian branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. There isn't a graduate among them: they are Highland and Galloway cattle, Lincoln and Romney sheep as well as Jersey cows.

An experimental research base, covering 200,000 acres, is being set up in the spurs of the Altai mountains in southern Siberia. One of its tasks will be to study how different animals adapt to local conditions and to evolve new strains for livestock farming, by creating a gene pool of wild and domestic animals.

Biologists have already successfully crossed Altai sheep with Lincoln and Romneys and got surprising results when they interbred two species which had also never come into contact: Jersey and aboriginal



Yakut cattle. They had hoped to develop hybrids which would yield milk with a high butterfat content. What they got was a sparsely haired, which inherited most of its characteristics from the Yakut breed - a hardy animal that can cope with the severe climatic conditions of Siberia and which possesses excellent meat qualities.

Another group of scientists is working on the domestication of wild animals. They believe this to be of great practical importance: it will help to preserve rare and vanishing species and also create new animals. The Altai genetic centre hopes ultimately to domesticate the otter, elk, beaver, grouse and partridge.

Fish stories

Although the Soviet Union has more than 300 lakes (including the Caspian) and more than 100,000 rivers, fish farming is on the increase in the country. Like fish farmers everywhere, the Russians are looking for new ways of reducing the mortality rate among young fish. Now, scientists of the Lvov division of the Ukrainian Fish Research Institute, claim that tobacco can help to do just that.

According to Ye. Basalkevich, candidate of Biological Sciences, experiments have proved that small amounts of tobacco dust added to the diet of trout and other fish will not affect their vital organs, yet kill pathogenic organisms harmful to fish.

Other Soviet experts have been concentrating on prolonging the storage life of fish. Because the ice in which fish are kept is often destroyed during packaging or in transport, too many fish rot before getting to the consumer. So, they have designed a polymer coat which is resistant to bacteria, mildew, fats and oils. At the same time it is gas and air tight. The coat neither smells nor tastes and is

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: SOVIET SCIENCE

easily dissolved in water once the fish is unfrozen.

Tests have shown that sturgeon, for instance, can be kept in such covers for more than a year, instead of the five months protection offered by ice alone.

Soil recipes

Members of the Forestry and Environmental Protection Research Institute in the Baltic Republic of Estonia are producing recipes for synthetic soil to suit specific crops. They are mixing peat with ore processing waste, which abounds in phosphorus, potassium and other micro-elements and helps the growth of barley, clover and alfalfa. The Institute's experimental plots are doing very well. It is expected that soon farmers will be able to order soil of their choice, which will then be produced by industrial methods.



Terrible letters

Four hundred years after the death of Ivan the Terrible, the Russian version of the Shakespeare-Bacon authorship controversy has been scientifically settled.

In 1564 one of the Tsar's closest friends, Prince Kurbski, fled to neighbouring Lithuania

afraid for his life. From there he started a lengthy correspondence with the Tsar, considered by scholars to be of great historical and literary importance. But until now many historians believed that it wasn't Ivan the Terrible but Ivan Peresvetov who replied to the prince's letters. They were wrong.

Researchers in the history department of Moscow University have used their computer to compare the contentious letters with texts known to have been written by the Tsar. The computer has ruled that it was Ivan the Terrible and nobody else who had been writing to his erstwhile friend.

Bird calls

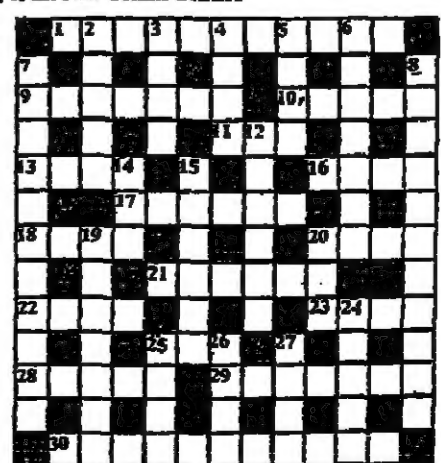
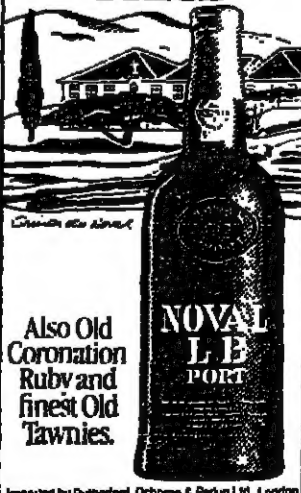
Nobody likes to be woken up by the shrill tocsin of an alarm clock. This is why psychologists at the Soviet space centre have decided to rouse their orbiting cosmonauts by recordings of a cock's crow or a lark's song, earthly sounds which are "especially dear" to people working in silent space. Other ornithological research has been concentrating on a different problem: how to protect crops from flocks of birds. Alexander Tikhonov, of the Moscow University biology department, has now come up with an "acoustic-optical scare-crow".

Andrew Wiseman

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 295)

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

- ACROSS
1 Bodily balance (11)
2 Extreme greed (7)
3 Airman (5)
11 David Owen Party (11,1)
13 Livelihood (4)
16 Needy (4)
17 Reputation (6)
18 Strategist (4)
20 Among (4)
21 Contemporary (6)
22 Petrol producers' body (4)
23 Pith helmet (4)
25 1939 British Continental army (11,1)
28 Rest on knees (5)
29 Flower arranging (7)
30 Sleep inducing substance (11)
DOWN
1 Seemingly (5)
2 Fleur de lis (4)
4 Mid month time (4)
5 Harvester (4)
6 Soldiers' dress (7)
7 Nonsense verse (11)
8 Vice admiral's junior (4,7)
12 Import taxes (6)
14 Metal ruminant (3)
15 Counter (6)
19 Low drinking place (7)
20 Colony insect (3)
24 African forest ruminant (5)
25 Obedience sportsman (4)
26 Arbitrary decree (4)
27 Feast day (4)

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MONDAY PAGE

PENNY PERRICK'S DIARY

The tip for the iceberg

The question is, had there been a book called *Sex Tips for Girls* when females of my own generation could be classified as such, would our lives have turned out any differently? At the time, the only advice going, had it been put in published form rather than doled out in private whispers, could have been called No-Sex Tips for Girls. The No-Sex Tipsters, headed up by mothers, headmistresses and doctors, made men sound such walking violations of disgusting habits that thousands of girls like me rushed into premature marriages.

We figured it out that if men were really so awful we would be better off putting ourselves under the legal protection of one of them, rather than sucking around in the vulnerable position of appetizer to the ravenous hordes of males who gobble up girls for breakfast.

The idea that Cynthia Heimel pursues all through *Sex Tips for Girls*, that men can provide a really good time, would have sounded as novel to my 16-year-old ears as the notion that a woman, dining out with a man, should pay the restaurant bill.

As it happens, Ms Heimel is pretty sure that they should. Allow me to quote her wise words: "It's not just chivalry that makes a man grab the bill from the waitress before anyone else does. He likes paying the bill. It gives him a warm and wonderful feeling of power and well-being, knowing that the sweat of his brow just transmuted itself into several orders of moo gai pan."

What she is saying is that for the price of a cheap Chinese meal, you can be the one who gets that nice warm feeling of power and control. How odd, therefore, that the No-Sex Tipsters of my girlhood adopted as their golden rule: A Decent Girl Always Lets The Man Pay. Didn't they know that a decent girl, having totted up the cost of a dinner which she has just eaten and which a man has just paid for, was very apt to feel that there was probably something that she ought to be doing for him in return?

Logically, what the No-Sex Tipsters should have advised was that Every Decent Girl Should Pay Her Own Way, so as not to be talked into any funny stuff. I suppose they might have argued that A Decent Girl doesn't have to make any recompense, even if in the course of an evening a man has bought her champagne, lobster and a little box with a very big diamond brooch in it. Ms Heimel, in fact, agrees with this philosophy, but somehow she puts it far more refreshingly than the old No-Sexers: "One does not have to sleep with, or even touch, someone who has paid for your meal. All those obligations are hereby rendered null and void, and any man who doesn't think so needs

My request in these pages for duplicated newsletters, circular letters and family "round robins" was rewarded with a massive harvest from those who are on the receiving end of these epistles of domestic achievement of one sort ("The children are progressing well in music theory") or another ("Colin broke his arm").

Known as "form letters" in the United States, where these annual communications seem to have started, they belong to a sort of company report that families send out to inform friends how the year's trading has fared. Some correspondents bite off more than they can chew, and pontificate on the world situation; others bite off less, giving detailed descriptions of the Toyota they hired on holiday.

Several of those who forwarded letters swore me to secrecy, removed the writers' addresses, or even telephoned me with second thoughts about letting me glimpse the words at all. These are semi-public letters sent to perhaps 100 people, but a wider readership might not be appreciated.

Many of the recipients could do without the annual round-up of news and views from all at 26 Acacia Avenue. "I enclose a nauseating example from someone who should know better," wrote a man who finally cracked from years of "Our lives are thus full to the brimming", and similar sentiments.

"Of a selection of ghastly newsletters that we received, this is the worst. An old schoolfriend of my father's who has been twice in the past 25 years, indicates it is us," snapped a cross daughter who underlined for my convenience highlights such as "momentous year", "works a 100-hour week", and "her one-eyed horse Hamlet made a superb season". The only item that cheered up my informant was "Muffett, our dachshund, was run over".

Which brings us to an even more exasperated letter, as we shall call her who told me. "We feel that this newsletter from Pepe the Poodle is well down to the standard you require". She was right. It began with "I am told that 'walkies' are out until this letter is done", and concluded with "My mistress had a nasty attack of shingles". Perhaps Pepe should make way for Harry the

Jonathan Sale examines a strange harvest of duplicated newsletters

PS: Jim's mother was murdered

Hampster or Gerald the Goldfish, or the whole menagerie should do Mrs X a favour and sell the typewriter.



The most ferocious attack came from a Mrs Z, who railed against "the soulless and idle habit of duplicated letters. I object to the impersonal, third-person approach, which is awkward to the point of embarrassment". What seemed to have upset her was receiving a massive toad that ranged from "Judith did an outstanding job on the lavatory" to a call for "fundamental changes in society", to a final paragraph beginning: "So to the international scene".

Some of my correspondents felt enthusiastic about the whole practice, particularly those who sent me copies of their very own newsletters. At least, I assume that they had pride in their product, since no one told me that he wished to complain about the tedious rubbish he inflicted on his acquaintances. Sending newsletters is a labour of love, with the emphasis on the

labour. Once started, it seems to go on and on. "We expect you will remember our account of a journey three years ago on a number 140 bus from Heathrow to Stanmore", wrote one couple to its readership at large. "This, the twenty-fourth Christmas letter, is the last", is how another signed off.

A family staying in Brussels ran to inset cartoons and headlines such as "Controls on animal trade" and "potato museum". From Holland came items labelled "Visitors" and "Jonathan", together with a map of the world to illustrate the family's peregrinations and a full page of photographs to remind readers of who was who.

Presentation, however, does not influence me in my judgment of the awards for the best, and worst, newsletters; it is the quality, or lack of it, alone that justifies the much-coveted prize of the Golden Bottle of Tipp-Ex. My decision is final, and no correspondence can be entered into (especially if it is duplicated).

There were, for some reason, few nominations for the Best Newsletter section, so the judge was very grateful to Ms A for putting up the one that began bluntly: "OK. Stand by for a boring dose of family information. You can immediately put it in the wrb as a pretentious personal statement; you can read it and decide that it is indeed a pretentious personal statement; or you can accept it for what it is intended to be, namely, a brief communication from one bad communicator to another. In short, we have spent all this money on a stamp".

The least I can do, in awarding the family position of runner-up, is to present it with another stamp, second-class but brand-new. And so to the winning entry, which also seeks to disarm criticism: "I have long suspected that people who send out circular letters to their friends at Christmas are pretentious.

boring, insecure, middle-class prats, who imagine that their humdrum affairs are thereby invested with a kind of semi-public importance which they don't possess." It starts, "So I really can't think why I haven't got around to doing this before," it goes on.



By the time the judge's eye reached "Well, we haven't had any babies and we haven't been anywhere", he came at once to a decision. The Golden Bottle of Tipp-Ex had found its home.

The Worst Newsletter award had a far longer short-list. Ms A, again, put up another runner, which, beginning as it did with "I am sure you will be pleased to know we are all well" (a statement which may or may not have been true in Ms A's case), was a firm favourite. Until, that is, the judge came across an entry which was not a round robin so much as a round record, a truly circular letter. The grooves on this flimsy disc, sent out to incredulous acquaintances, have been worn flat

by repeated playings; but enough was audible for the judge to realize why the do-it-yourself recording of hand-me-down prattlings should have caused such hilarity.

It is in the form of an alphabet, in which "B is for Brighton" where the living-room recording studio was situated, "J is for Jason" and "O is for O-level exams" which the poor kid was currently taking, not to mention "U is for us". This disc, it should be said, a golden oldie; it came out some time ago, since when my informants have received a Christmas card with the seasonal message that the sentimental twosome has split up. A is for alimony. The parents will have to decide who gets custody of the trophy for the runner-up, a specially engraved steel needle for eradicating grooves on plastic records.

And so to the number one position in the Worst Newsletter chart. This is a multi-coloured offering that relates the tedious doings of an American family - in verse. Not only did the judge not wish to know anything at all about these folks, he also did not wish to know it in (more or less) rhyming couplets.

Space allows just one quotation from the epic of io-ings and fro-ings: "Then, followed by Tom Dietz's Volkswagen bus, we brought Aunt Ruth back home for a visit with us".

To the poet laureate of Colorado Springs, the prize of a 10-gallon bottle of eraser fluid, together with suggestions on what to use it on, looked assured.

It was clinched by a covering note from the nominator, who told me that one year, when the annual doggerel from Colorado Springs was being perused, it was found to be concluded with a hand-written postscript in prose: "Ps. You will be sad to hear that Jim's mother was murdered".

My informant wasn't and hadn't, because Jim, quite apart from his unfortunate mother, was unknown to him. He thought of writing back for the first and last time, with a verse of his own, along the lines of: "Dead? Dead? What's that you said? Why, I never even entered my head!" but decided against it on grounds of taste.

He wishes he had, now. It would have given them something to write about.

Father's typhoon runs its course

FIRST PERSON
By Sarah Helm

The typhoon has to run its course within the four walls. My father was something of a pioneer in the field of retirement - it would perhaps have been easier had he not been. He was one of a new liberated generation of retired professionals refusing to take the obvious course, refusing even to admit to being "retired".

ment was an excuse to spend more time sitting in smoke-filled rooms discussing worthwhile projects.

For him there was never going to be any of this. For months, indeed, there was nothing. It was like a long rather hollow weekend with the gardening and fishing.

And we waited quite a long time. But eventually the key was found. I arrived home late on Friday night after a long journey to be greeted not with the usual interest in my own news but with an urgent request to read by father's latest essay on a *Romeo and Juliet*. And I must look at a piece he wrote on a Hardy poem which really, he felt, was rather superficial and he had had difficulty finding 1000 words to

My father's retirement would, I had hoped, lead to at least one welcome change - a little peace and quiet in the mornings. The day has always begun in a most uncivilized fashion with a sudden burst of activity and noise. Father out of bed, turns on the radio news full blast, alerts his sleeping family to the commencement of the day with a thundering - "come on, get up, lots to do, lovely day, pity to waste it" - then off he goes into the bathroom to mull over the latest world disasters, voicing his opinions out loud to the toothbrush.

By the time he descends for breakfast (still clutching radio) the whole house has been switched on with voices reverberating the walls, out through the windows and across the fields - where at least the sheep, munching quietly, seem unmoved. No subject is too contentious, too emotive to put him off his porridge. Unfortunately for the lazy, retirement has changed nothing of the early morning routine. It is only a little later, when the last cup of tea has been drunk and the breakfast table deserted that the change becomes apparent. For in the old days, by 9am, the typhoon had hurried away at full speed, late as ever to get to work. For those left behind the noise of the car tyres grating on the gravel was a signal of peace. As the car hummed away my mother would begin her day and a general air of practicality would take over. But now, with no life or death emergency beckoning from beyond,

Playing havoc in the nursery

COMMENT

While Fleet Street commentators are falling over themselves to congratulate Mr Nigel Lawson on his maiden budget, the thugs of the Inland Revenue are upsetting everything in the nursery. Is nothing sacred? Working mothers are now in the firing line of the taxman's latest assault on perks. A decision to tax creches - in effect to tax them out of existence - brings the generally unfair treatment of women in the tax-system sharply into focus.

About a week ago several mothers whose children attend the Kingsway Child Centre, a creche subsidized by a number of employers for the use of their staff, received a letter telling them that the Inland Revenue had decided that employers' contributions to the creche - two thirds of the total cost - should be regarded as a perk and taxed accordingly. Mothers with children in the creche pay £115 a month - the employer pays £230. The tax on the latter will result in an extra cost of around £70 a month on top of the £115. And for some of these mothers is disastrous. Gillian Dickens is a secretary with the National Association of Local Government Officers, one of the employers subsidizing the creche and the first one to be pounced on by the Revenue.

She's a single parent with a son, aged three and a half,

whom she supports on her modest £9,000 salary. No one had ever suggested to her that Nigel's £230 a month contribution was taxable. She's just moved and got a mortgage. She doesn't want to leave her child with a minder (he's been at the creche since he was six months) but doesn't know how she is going to afford it.

Gillian and others like her all face tax bills of £700 or more - representing the back tax owed by them on their "perk" for the current tax year, as well as the extra they will have to pay in the future. Gillian is having £20 a week docked from her pay each month for the back tax. The result is that the cost of having her son looked after has been doubled overnight by Mr Lawson's arm of jackboots, seemingly on a whim.

The intention of the Inland Revenue to have a go at this so-called "perk" has enormous implications for working mothers. It could kill off the entire employer creche system.

What are the Inland Revenue doing? Over the past couple of years the taxmen have been cracking down on perks with a macho enthusiasm. Higher paid employers (anyone earning more than £8,500 a year - that's a laugh in itself) are taxed on any payments from employers in cash or kind. This catches things like rail fares to work, private school fees etc - real tangible goodies. Some perks are not taxable because

they are facilities - subsidized meals for instance and a subsidized sports ground for staff. Up till now the Equal Opportunities Commission has reckoned that creches were facilities opposed to perks. But now there is a change. "Sports facilities and creches are regarded as being part of the welfare of an employed," an Inland Revenue person told me. Having your children looked after does not, apparently, count as welfare.

What makes the blood really boil is the peanuts tax paid on company cars - man's favourite gift to man, it appears. It costs the country a fortune - probably enough to put a child-care centre on every street corner. The average company car driver pays just £3 a week tax on this perk. And while his wife is driving the company Volvo round the Sainsbury's car park they are paying a swingeing £20 extra a week for their "perks" down in the Kingsway creche.

The nonsense of the tax system, of course, is that child care is not an allowable expense. Unlike paying the office cleaner, the secretary or going on a two-day junker, sorry, business conference to New York with wife or mistress, I'm told you can even get tax relief to pay for the conferences they run on how to get the most out of your perks.

Why do we put up with this nonsense? Why doesn't some one bring the Inland Revenue, into the twentieth century.

Maggie Drummond

Parenthood not an automatic right

TALKBACK

Upholding discipline

From Mrs J. G. Hyde, Glen-dower House, 163 Oatlands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey. Am I alone in finding Anne Whitehouse's whining, self-pity over her fertility treatment (*The Times*, 5th March, 1984) distasteful and misplaced? I am convinced that with a different outlook on life Mrs Whitehouse and her husband, and all those like her, could make a happy and fulfilled life together without children and that she could then channel her maternal instincts into some equally rewarding, and worthwhile effort, perhaps as a foster parent.

Has not the "family plan-

ning" euphemism for contraception produced a generation which sees parenthood as an automatic right rather than a gift from God? As the fortunate (but not, I hope, smug) mother of two I do not doubt the deep-rooted need of many women to have children but I do question the attitude of society in bringing up women to expect a child to be conceived "to order".

It is a common fault to reduce matters of priceless value to monetary terms but just what is the cost of Mrs Whitehouse's treatment and can it really be right to spend anything on this luxury when patients are dying from lack of kidney machines?

From Dr Rosemary Martin, Redcliffe Rd, Manchester. I have no personal experience of

the investigations into fertility which Anne Whitehouse describes (*First Person* March 5), but I have often wondered, watching from the professional side of fence, whether the trail after fertility is really worth it. I do feel that if she is to have a claim on the attention of the medical profession and of the lay public, she must take some responsibility for a process which she, after all, initiated. The specialists are trying to help in the sincere belief that this is what she wants. If the results are unfortunate or unbearable then it is up to her to say so, to the right people, instead of complaining in desultory fashion to the world in general.

From Miss Freda Kallett, President Girls' Schools Association, Birkenhead High School, 86 Devonshire Place, Birkenhead. I read with interest the article by Helen Mason. As 5,000 children in Britain spend about £60m a year on cigarettes, it follows that they must spend £12,000 per annum each. Strange indeed, when we read elsewhere in the paper that the average weekly pocket money is £1.05.



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PARIS DIARY

by Frank Johnson

Murder most French

A dark Frenchman in black tie who appeared in the newspapers, and on the cover of last week's *Paris Match*, as escort to the actress Catherine Deneuve, differed in two aspects from previous holders of that coveted office. He was not described as about to become her next husband, and shortly before the photographs appeared, he had been murdered.

The late Raynald Heppenstall, the British potter and critic, writing in the preface to one of his indispensable books on French murder, answered the charge that he might have been giving the impression that the French were a peculiarly criminal nation. "As a matter of statistical fact," he said, "writing in 1972. 'They are, on average, rather more than twice as murderous as ourselves, not only in bright rooms and dark lanes but in their cars on the road. But I try to avoid saying that. Yet there is a common propensity to murder in all countries. Heppenstall concedes. Closer examination of national differences in the practice of murder often showed those differences 'to be temporary, local and confined to a single class.' He nonetheless adds that 'during the Belle Epoque there were upper class French crimes one could not have imagined in any part of the United Kingdom or the United States.'

The man depicted at Mme Deneuve's side was Gerard Lebouvier, *'l'ennemi du monde du cinema Francaise'* (Le Monde). He was a publisher and a raiser of money for films which latter capacity explains his business connection with Mme Deneuve. He was thus a member of the only class now widely accepted in France as being upper: the class made up of people who appear, or cause others to appear, on the large or small screen, although in any well-conducted murder of the Belle Epoque, he would not, so to speak, have been seen dead.

But in the old days, as now, it was not possible to have a more upper class area of Paris in which to be discovered dead than the Avenue Foch, and it was there that M. Lebouvier was found shot at the wheel in an enclosed car park (four bullets). Squads of those philosophical, resigned picturesque Paris detectives, so many of whom seem to be midge-like, arrived on the scene and puffed on their gaulloises. In due course, they found in the deceased's pocket a piece of paper on which was written a time, presumably of a rendezvous and a first name (Francois), presumably not that of the President of the republic. There the clues have ended.

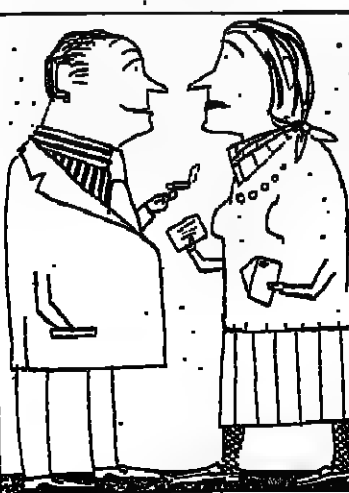
To a France as bored as nearly everyone else by the Common Market, budget matters, and as rhetorically grateful as nearly everyone else to Mr. Hart for enlivening what promised to be a dire American presidential year, the clueless corpse in the Avenue Foch has become essential. Furthermore, M. Lebouvier seems to have been unlovable, which makes people enjoy the mystery with a good conscience. The first book he published celebrated the pre-war band, known as Pierrot le Fou, once the subject of an important "new wave" film and, Heppenstall informs me, a bad lot in reality.

Lately, he published *The Death Instinct*, the memoirs of the most famous recent bandit, the late Jacques Mesrine. M. Lebouvier wrote the preface to the new edition, "it is a redoubtable honour to be the publisher of Jacques Mesrine." He helped finance the film of the book. So hardly anyone believes he was killed by real gangsters (too obvious). One theory is that he was killed, less glamorously, by makers of clandestine video cassettes about whom he had been complaining for damaging his legitimate business. Gambling debts? A possibility. Like many a *belle epoque* figure, he is reported to have enjoyed seedy gaming tables.

There is an ideological aspect. Under the influence of May, 1968, he became a radical Leftist, and financed once-fashionable publications (the romanticising of criminals was a late 1960s early 1970s phenomenon, it will be remembered). Very much a man of his time and class, then. But tastes change. Some of today's fashionable publications have hoisted him to his grave, implying that he lived by the values by which he died. For today's Paris fashion is right wing.

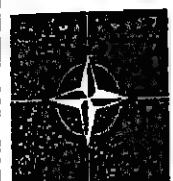
A murder case that has touched on Pierrot le Fou, Mme Deneuve, the Avenue Foch, and ideology among the Parisian intelligentsia is a very French murder and, in an age menaced by that of the tedium of the Brussels summit and by the still-possible candidacy of Mr. Walter Mondale, the French are duly grateful.

BARRY FANTONI



"A dinner invitation at the Thatchers: wonderful Black tie or burnous?"

Neutralist propaganda threatens European security, argues Franz Josef Strauss, Bavarian Prime Minister, in the eighth of our series marking 35 years of Nato



Thirty-six years have passed since Europe last saw internal military conflict - the longest period of peace in European history since the invention of firearms or perhaps even earlier. The superficial explanation often given for this is that there is a rough military balance between East and West which makes war impossible as a means for resolving political differences.

But this military balance has never really existed and in recent years the predominance of the Soviet Union has become considerably more pronounced. Yet in a way it is possible to speak of military equilibrium because of the deterrent effect of the strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapon arsenals at the disposal of Nato in Europe, which until a few years ago posed an incalculable threat to a potential aggressor: the cost of any military action would outweigh any advantage it might achieve. And so it was that whenever political agitation and change occurred, it came about not as a result of armed conflict, but rather by a process of evolution within one or other of the spheres of influence and their differing world orders.

Moscow has forced the West to act

Proof of the goodwill of the West lies in its policy of détente towards the Soviet Union, but Moscow has unfortunately not taken up this opportunity to lessen the danger of conflict and to replace its militaristic outlook with a willingness to negotiate. Instead the Soviet Union has abused the goodwill of western countries, using détente as a smokescreen behind which to undertake a massive arms programme out of all proportion to the needs of national defence and the country's own economic capabilities. This has led to renewed tension and the West has been provoked into at least maintaining a rough military balance and ensuring the future credibility of its nuclear deterrent.

Moscow has forced the West to make a move by its policy of stockpiling arms and in particular by the determined and precipitate stationing of its new medium-range SS20-type missiles. The West has no corresponding weapons at present to counter this mobile, reloadable and virtually invulnerable weapon system, whose nuclear warheads threaten targets throughout Western Europe. Nato had no option therefore but to decide on December 12, 1979, to update its own deterrent potential by introducing new medium-range rockets, at the same time offering to open US-Soviet talks aimed at a bilateral limitation of medium-range weapons.

The 1979 decision taken by the



Franz Josef Strauss: "a historical duty"

Peace—but not pacifism

Nato countries is not just a last minute attempt to reestablish an approximate military balance; it is an essential prerequisite for successful disarmament talks, because Moscow would not otherwise be prepared to limit its own rocket potential.

Under the ever-lengthening shadow of the Soviet threat, we in West Germany are caught up in a strange debate about the right way to secure peace. The peace movement - an unholy alliance of those who are pacifists for ulterior motives, out of fear or because of their idealism - has a powerful influence on public opinion with the encouragement of certain sections of the media.

The pacifists with ulterior motives are communists. They take the view that nuclear weapons in the hands of communist governments are beneficial instruments for progress and the achievement of happiness for mankind, whereas those same weapons in the hands of democratically elected politicians are to be condemned as criminal instruments for the oppression of the people and for the maintenance of an outmoded capitalist order. Any further analysis of their position would be a waste of words.

Decision-making on Christian principles

Then we come to those who have joined the peace movement out of a sense of fear. Their motto is "rather dead than dead". They are to a large extent incapable of recognizing their own intellectual error, namely that this option simply does not exist. They are in fact opting for both red and dead. At present war is unacceptable in human terms, but if Nato were to collapse, the outbreak of a third world war would be brought infinitely closer. It is the nature of the weapons themselves that makes any resort to arms out of the question. So we are left with only one real option: neither red nor dead.

And then there are those worthy men and women who belong to the peace movement on account of their moral convictions. I respect their personal decision but their principles are simply not applicable to politics. These people who are

prepared to sit back and see their freedom and dignity violated cannot be described as the peace-makers of the Sermon on the Mount. The real peace-makers are those whose vigilant and resolute policies ensure that war can never break out, and in so doing bring about lasting peace.

Pacifism on moral grounds is the privilege of those who live in a free society. Responsible pacifism is practised by statesmen whose responsible decision-making is aimed at achieving peace and freedom, and is based on Christian principles. The Christian church must not be denied a hearing on this issue, but the moral pacifists in the peace movement claim for themselves the monopoly of Christian motivation, and try to push responsible pacifists into the camp of enemies of peace. In this they can count on the help of certain religious circles and confessional groups.

In Europe today neutralism is on the increase, a sense of equidistance between the values of Washington and Moscow. But this is a betrayal of the idea of freedom, and it is essential that today's youth is made aware of this fact. We must put a stop to the spreading of the slanderous view that western leaders are power-crazed opponents of détente; that President Reagan is a warmonger and that Moscow is the home of true peace-makers.

One glance at the American press suffices to see the effects that this insidious propaganda is having on German-American relations. Within the USA it is impossible to conceive of European security, let alone to guarantee it.

We must therefore resolutely oppose those forces within the government parties and their political associates, who by their militant anti-American stance and latent neutrality cast doubt in the minds of our friends abroad as to the direction West German politics may take in the future. They give Moscow grounds for renewed hope that West Germany could in the future follow the example of Finland and become a neutral country and so finally reverse the fundamental decision taken by Konrad Adenauer to achieve the integration of West Germany into the political, economic and social order of the free West.

Everyone wants peace, in the West and in the East alike. But history has taught us that peace cannot be secured by continual appeasement. To lessen the risk facing an aggressor is to increase the danger of war. After more than a decade of an illusory policy of détente which promised to make peace "more secure by the day", I can well understand the anxieties and fears of those who now have to recognize that there can be no question of peace having been made any more secure during this period.

Anxiety and fear never were good influences on policies. If we do not want to betray ourselves we must reduce people's fears so that they become convinced once more that in the long term the foundations on which peace is built are justice and respect for human rights and the rights of nations; this means that peace depends upon a just balance of reciprocal interests. But for the foreseeable future at least peace is based upon the West's ability to maintain a deterrent which leaves room for not the slightest doubt that the cost of any military action would bear no relation to any advantage that could be drawn from it.

The following that the peace movement has gained gives a clear indication of the alarming extent to which the so-called policy of détente over the last ten years has destroyed the appreciation of the difficulties here in the West. More and more people are blind to the lesson of history: the desire for peace cannot itself bring about peace, especially when the desire for peace becomes confused with a policy of peace.

Backing down raises the risk of war

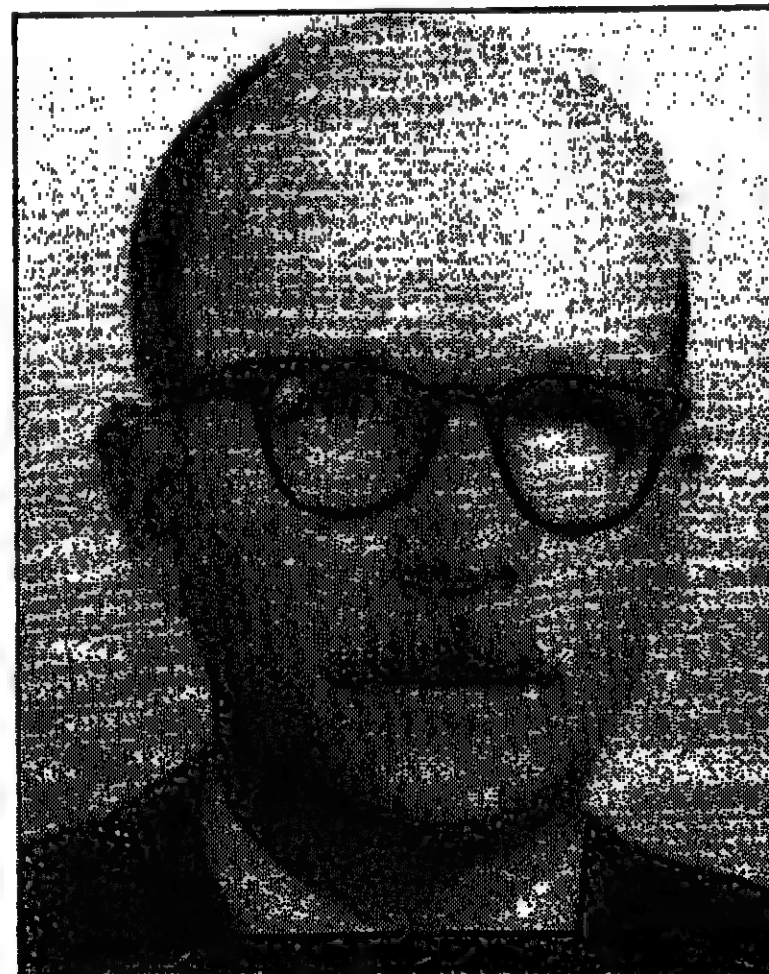
World peace for me and my political colleagues is more than a state of no-war, no-fighting. There is no war in Poland and yet the Polish people do not live in peace.

Our peace and security policies are aimed at securing the protection of our fellow men. The world will not change if we simply close our eyes to things as they really are. Our peoples, and in particular the younger generation, must grasp the fact that any backing down to the Soviet Union's desire for power will not bring peace, but will year by year increase the danger of war.

It is our historical duty to prevent peace from being thoughtlessly gambled away once again this century.

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The author, who is also leader of the Christian Social Union Party, was West German Defence Minister from 1966 to 1969. A full collection of articles in this series will be published in book form by Times Books in cooperation with the Georgetown Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington.



Richard Welch, a US diplomat murdered after his exposure as a spy, and, right, Philip Agee, the CIA's only known defector

lowing the publication of a number of books detailing aspects of SIS's work abroad. The most recent contribution has been my own account of the SIS which was published last October. The book went through the voluntary self-censorship system of the "D" Notice Committee, and in common with a previous volume on the Security Service, MIS, covering the same period, suffered the removal of a number of passages which were deemed sensitive.

The flaw in the "D" Notice system lies in its advisory role. Unless an author has been a servant of the Crown (in which case he or she is under a contractual obligation to submit to the committee's advice) the committee has virtually no powers. It can request copies of manuscripts from reputable publishers but if a publisher declines to cooperate the committee is impotent.

At worst the affable secretary of the "D" Notice Committee, Admiral Bill Ash, can issue a formal warning that an Official Secrets Act prosecution may be contemplated. Two books in particular have been considered provocative. *British Intelligence and Cover Action* (Junction Books, 1983) by Jonathan

Bloch and Patrick Fitzgerald (with an introduction by Philip Agee) was not spotted by the committee until too late, and Anthony Verrier's *Through the Looking Glass* (Cape, 1983) was read by the authorities only after it appeared in the bookshops. Both books contained the names of active members of the Secret Intelligence Service and caused disquiet on the sixth floor of Century House.

The sanctions available to the Government are somewhat limited, and both depend on action being taken swiftly, in the early stages of a book's production. Both are extraordinarily counter-productive. The first option is that old standby, the Official Secrets Act. A prosecution under Section 1 requires the Crown to prove espionage, but this is more likely to publicize rather than prevent the publication of an offending book.

The ABC trial at the Old Bailey in 1978 resulted in the Section 1 charges against two journalists and a former Signals corporal being dropped. Mr Justice Mann-Jones having described them as "oppressive". All three defendants were eventually convicted under the relatively minor Section II charges (which concerned the communi-

cation of official information) and were freed. The net result was to draw attention to the subject of the magazine article which the authorities had wished to ban.

The alternative to a ban is civil litigation alleging breach of confidence. This rare step was taken against the literary executors of Richard Crossman who announced their intention to release his cabinet diaries. The case failed and the diaries were published. In October 1982, an attempt to stop another book, *A Matter of Trust: M15 1909-45*, also failed and the book was published, albeit without several contentious passages. The disadvantage of this manoeuvre quickly became apparent. For the action to be initiated to the High Court the plaintiff was under an obligation to authenticate the contents of the book. Such a unique accolade inevitably gave the final version much greater circulation than it would otherwise have merited.

The leaders of the Secret Intelligence Service believe it is only a question of time before the life of an SIS officer is put at risk. Their recommendation of a British equivalent to the Intelligence Identities Protection Act is not likely to be well received in the Commons or elsewhere. There is a healthy and instinctive dislike in this country to trials in camera. Such an Act would establish a privileged elite whose names could never appear in public and stifle the work of bona fide historians. Far better, surely, for the Secret Intelligence Service to adopt sufficiently impenetrable covers for their staff so that even the most diligent investigator could not play the game of "spot-the-spy" in the Diplomatic List.

Such a precaution would also help to baffle KGB analysts and make life more difficult for terrorists seeking targets. In the past neither group has shown much respect for parliamentary legislation and there is no sign of this proposal deterring them. Instead of more "oppressive" legislation, more imagination is needed on the part of the cold war bureaucrats of the Westminster Bridge Road.

Nigel West

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The author's book, *M16: British Secret Intelligence Service Operations 1909-45*, has been published by Weidenfeld & Nicholson

Ferdinand Mount

Will Arthur Scargill smash the miners?

"We are not using the word pickets," said Mr Emlyn Williams, president of the South Wales miners. "Our lads are lobbying". There is an easy irony to be squeezed out of those words after what happened in Nottinghamshire, a tragic irony fit all too neatly into the Southerner's picture of the miners as violent and lawless. Even George Orwell in *The Road to Wigan Pier* unintentionally helped to reinforce this stereotype.

To a Southerner, new to the mining districts, the spectacle of a shift of several hundreds of miners streaming out of the pit is strange and slightly sinister. The exhausted faces, with the grime clinging in all the hollows, have a fierce, wild look. The Southerner could all too easily imagine how that fierceness and wildness might, when sorely provoked by exploitation and hardship, break into action.

This Southern unease was not first born in the 1930s with Orwell's *Wigan Pier* or with Richard Llewellyn's *How Green Was My Valley*. The feeling is almost as old as mining in this country. Two hundred years earlier, Daniel Defoe met a Derbyshire lead miner clambering out of a shaft "lean as a skeleton, pale as a corpse... like an inhabitant of the dark regions below". Defoe felt immediately that would today be called middle-class guilt. "We blessed ourselves to reflect how much we had to acknowledge to our Maker that we were not appointed to get our bread thus, one hundred and fifty yards under ground". He records too a terrible pit explosion in Co Durham: "There were near three-score poor people lost their lives in the pit, and one or two who were at the bottom of the shaft, were blown quite out, though sixty fathom deep, and were found dead upon the ground."

That sympathy is as natural as it is deeply ingrained. Unfortunately, it is also a feeling which can swiftly turn into its opposite and actually inflame class warfare, by evoking the image of the black collier, rude, hostile and alien by the brutality of his life; "damn miners, starving us of coal", as a wing-commander in our neighbourhood was wont to remark during the 1947 power cuts, as though the NUM headquarters had its eye on West Wiltshire.

Among the comfortable classes - left-wing and right-wing alike - coal miners tend to be thought of as warm and simple souls, much given to community singing, manly both in their camaraderie and in their haunts. For left-wingers indeed, any variation from this lifestyle is regarded as a softening and a corruption. The news of miners with mortgages or motor cars is deplored, with as much sighing for the past as the sight of a Navajo Indian in a plastrone suit.

Now it is true that the history of the miners' union - or unions, for its regional origins and its federal structure should always be kept in

mind - is spotted with violence. Many of these violent clashes have been not with authority, in the shape of the militia or the police, but between one pit and another, or one region and another.

But what the usual lurid picture of the miners leaves out is the sophisticated democracy of both structure and practice which has been evolved, partly learned from these violent clashes, partly distilled from the prodigious book-learning of some of the early leaders. It is not simply the requirement for a ballot and a 55 per cent Yes vote before a national strike can be called. It is the delicate relationship between the areas and the federation, between the leaders and the led, which could serve as a model for many organizations outside the trade union movement.

This structure had, I think, helped the miners to adjust, if reluctantly and tardily, to the bitter realities of an extractive industry: that villages have or had to be built for and near the pit, and that pits eventually come to be exhausted. National and area leaders have been able to bargain with the NCB to soften both the pace and the terms of change.

Arthur Scargill is not the only Marxist to have led the miners. Will Paynter and Arthur Horner were out-and-out communists and fought fiercely for their members. But they and their successors respected both the realities of the industry and the traditions of the union.

He himself is already a comic figure, with his sparse brushed-across hair and increasingly robotic voice and gestures. The worst of it is that he has begun to make his members look as foolish as he looks. He has not only managed to make the government and Ian MacGregor seem almost irrelevant to the dispute so far. He has thrown away the invaluable bargaining counter of popular support for the miners, turning the old feelings of sympathy and fear into something more like impatience and even contempt. And upon public sympathy depends the billion pounds or more of public money which is at present committed each year to the coal industry in one way or another. If anyone can "smash" the National Union of Mineworkers (to use his own kind of verb), Mr Scargill can.

It may, I suppose, count as a success to have reduced the rate of pit closures hitherto to below the rate under the last Labour government - but only a temporary success. The mountains of coal at the power stations cannot be picked out of existence.

The outlook for many mining communities out of driving range of new coalfields - especially in Scotland and South Wales - is bleak, however generous the redundancy terms. But there are ways and means of standing up for those communities. And it is unlikely that Arthur Scargill's way will be remembered with much pride.

Anne Sofer

Labour awaits the new Messina

Recently I conducted a word association experiment with a sample of what might be best described as moderately well-informed *Guardian* readers. What did they associate with the name "Messina"? Volcanoes, said one. The Mafia, said another. Garibaldi, said a third. Orgies, doubtfully hazarded a fourth; (but I think she was thinking of "Messalina").

I have no doubt that the Labour Party carried out a similar exercise, at greater expense and with better statistical competence, and discovered the same thing: that the word has an exciting and sexy ring to it and, as far as the general public is concerned, it means nothing at all in relation to the politics of the Common Market. It will therefore do very well as a campaign slogan for the European elections.

Thus we are witnessing a very clever conjuring trick, not to say a *coup de theatre*. In a puff of smoke and at the wave of a wand, that tedious and senile old crone "withdrawal from the EEC" disappears and a ravishing young beauty "New Messina" appears in her place.

Anyone ploughing through Neil Kinnock's article *New Deal for Europe*, in a recent issue of the *New Socialist*, is conscious of doubletalk. On the one hand there is all the vocabulary of togetherness: "Britain's future, like our past and present, lies with Europe... We need joint economic policies to counter the economic crisis... joint policies for economic democracy..."

But tucked in between the emollient phrases are the let-out clauses: "We have to acknowledge the right of a country to protect itself against... the policies of other countries..." "We must decide how to restore the initiative in policy formulation to European governments and parliaments on their own agendas..."

Comparing the claims to pan-Europeanism against the actual policies of the Labour Party is instructive. Though Kinnock indignantly condemns the rejection of Mitterrand's proposed major reforms of the international monetary institutions, it is a fact that these very reforms, if carried out, would have put the Labour Party in a very difficult spot. Control over rate is a crucial part of Labour's Alternative Economic Strategy: would they ever give it up? Where does that whole panoply of import controls, tariffs and quotas fit in? I wish I could have seen the faces of many in the socialist group of the

European Parliament when they read some of Kinnock's blander commitments. "Joint economic recovery"? Their raised eyebrows and sardonic smiles might well have asked. (And in fact in the spectrum of British politics, it is the SDP's proposals which are closest to Mitterrand's initiative of January 1983).

For despite Kinnock's emphasis on the need to "support joint policies by like-minded left governments", the British Labour Party is wholly out of step with its counterparts in Europe, to the extent that they are going to need an alternative version of the socialist manifesto. At the very moment that Kinnock was calling for reform of the political settlement - the "out-of-date treaties", the "political clac" of the EEC, his British colleagues in the European Parliament (worried about their chances of re-election) were voting against the new draft treaty proposed by the Italian Euro-Communist Altiero Spinelli and supported strongly by Ernest Glinne, the Belgian leader of the socialist group.

So does the Labour Party actually support left-initiated reforms of the EEC or not? However much their leader may throw sand in our eyes by talking about the new Messina laying the "foundations of a genuine community of Europe", the more authentic voice of Labour is Peter Shore: "We simply do not share the doctrine of European 'community'" (an article in *The Times* last year). Kinnock's call for a "new start" is a return to the drawing board - is paper-thin electoral hypocrisy.

But let me return to that interesting Sicilian city with an evocative name but uncertain associations. In fact the original Messina Conference in 1955 was something quite other than the grand inaugural occasion Kinnock's sloganizing suggests. It exemplified the sort of step-by-step organic development which is the opposite of the Labour Party's demand that we start all over again from the beginning. On that occasion the six members of what was then only the Coal and Steel Community met and decided that their limited cooperation could now be extended, and it was that decision that led to the signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1957. It is that genuine "spirit of Messina" which is needed now, and which the Labour Party will do everything in its power to wreck.

The author is the SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North

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WHAT EUROPE DESERVES

If there is no settlement of the European Community's financial crisis at the Brussels summit today and tomorrow, there remains the summit in June. But if at that meeting also there were to be no settlement, the Community would be on the brink of financial chaos, unable to meet its own expenditure commitments. In such an event, would the Community disintegrate? In recent months, there have been some voices from the British government machine which have dwelt on this danger in the belief that nothing is more likely to concentrate the minds of the other member states on the need to come to terms with the British budgetary problem than the fear that the Community itself might break up if agreement were not reached.

It is an understandable tactical argument, and the crisis the EEC faces is indeed grave. If it is not settled, the working of the Community could become chaotic with serious consequences for some states that were obliged to provide extra support for their own farmers, and with the danger of reprisals. Such a state of affairs would further impede what is really important about the Community - its development as a coherent political voice for free Europe within the Western alliance.

Yet the threat of Community disintegration is not part of the armoury Mrs Thatcher takes with her to Brussels. Indeed, the regards talk of a Community break-up as a hollow threat, and that is her ultimate strength. It is precisely her Gaullist (so to speak) determination both to stay in the Community, which has no mechanism for expulsion, and to guard her own country's essential interests that has convinced the French President that the British cannot simply be dismissed as half-hearted members looking for an excuse to detach themselves. Mrs Thatcher's attitude is exactly that which France has always adopted, and that is why Mr Edward Heath's repeated and bitter rebukes to her for failing to speak more gently in a Community spirit are so wide of the mark. If he had negotiated better terms for Britain we should not be in the position we are in today.

The essence of that position is that Britain, with Germany, pays disproportionately to the Community in terms of its relative prosperity within the EEC, and that the Community then wastes its resources on open-ended agricultural subsidies which have led to the pile-up of huge farm commodity surpluses because there has been a guaranteed market for whatever is produced.

The result of that has been a wholly disproportionate gap between Britain's contributions to the Community and its

receipts from it. Last year, that gap amounted to 2,000 million (€1200 million in EEC units of account) before the rebate of 750 million (€450 million) which was agreed by the Council of Ministers last year but which has now been blocked by the French and Italian governments pending British agreement to an increase in the Community's "own resources". Hitherto, Britain has had to deal with this problem by negotiating annual rebates in a series of acrimonious encounters with the other member states. But what the United Kingdom wants and needs, and what the Community's own real interest requires, is a durable long-term settlement.

As Mrs Thatcher sees it, we now have a unique opportunity to secure such a long-term settlement because, unless Britain agrees to an increase in member states' contributions to the Community's "own resources", by raising the amount that is calculated as a percentage of each member state's VAT base, the EEC will be unable to pay its agricultural and other bills. (Such an increase has to be agreed unanimously.) What Britain sought was a system of cash limits to contain farm spending and arrangements to limit each nation's contributions to revenue according to its relative prosperity within the Community.

It now seems clear that the British do not expect to get acceptance for the scheme they put forward. On the other hand, the other member states, including the French, do seem to have accepted that the principle of relative ability to pay must be part of any settlement. What they propose, however, is that the gap between contributions and revenue should be calculated in a different way (by leaving out of account a large part of farm levies and tariffs paid to the EEC) which would make the British gap much smaller. Then, the amount of that gap which was subject to compensation would be less than 100 per cent.

It is around both such complex formulae and the figures to be written into them that the Brussels summit will revolve. There are some hopeful signs. One is last week's draft agreement to cut back milk production over a period of five years from 105 million tonnes to 97.8 million tonnes by a punitive level of tax above a certain level of production, though there are aspects of this agreement on which the British have withheld final approval. There is also some encouragement to be had from the provisional agreement which has been rushed forward under the guidance of the French agricultural minister, Mr Michel Rocard, which would begin to put restraints on the production of farm commodities, but which still does not tackle the question

of overall cash limits on agricultural subsidy.

But the obstacles at Brussels remain formidable. Part of the immediate problem is the blocking of the 1983 rebate (already held up by the European Parliament) by the French and Italians. If they do not release it at Brussels, pressure will build up in Britain for Mrs Thatcher to retaliate by withholding part of Britain's contributions as she has threatened to do. In that event, Mrs Thatcher has to consider whether by withholding she would make the long-term settlement still harder to achieve, and if she concludes that it would, she would be right to delay a little. For the long-term settlement is what Britain most needs and on which the Prime Minister must, and presumably will, stand absolutely firm.

Mrs Thatcher seems to be convinced that a budget solution based in some sense on ability to pay can be produced and in devising that solution as much depends on the figures that are written into it as on the formulae adopted. What is important to remember is that any idea that the Treaty of Rome as it now stands is immutable is absurd. Its financial arrangements were amended to those that now operate in 1970 before Britain joined the Community and it cannot be argued that because we joined the club its rules are forever fixed. It is, after all, the other member states who have opened up the need to increase "own resources" for which our agreement is required.

In the last few weeks there appears to have been a disposition on the part of the French to accept the basic premise of the British case. But after Athens, the Prime Minister is naturally wary of reading too much into this. After all, before Athens the French had appeared to be more co-operative but when the day came they backed down. The idea that the same could not happen at Brussels is not one Mrs Thatcher is likely to nurture. She is only too well aware of the danger that the other nine will gang up against Britain and she dare not place any great hopes on the Germans who, though they have frequently in recent years been regarded as having an identity of interest with the British, have always at the last fallen back on their special relationship with France as their overall priority.

Britain must not be daunted by the accusation that it may bring down the house of cards. To reform the Community we must be prepared to risk whatever discomfort might come this summer from a failure to reach agreement now. There is no point in expediting to shore up a Community which is not working. They would only make it work worse still. Europe, as well as Britain, deserves something better than that.

THE HAMMER AND THE CROSS

Poland is not the only country where the separation of church and state is bitterly debated, nor is it the only country where the status of religion in schools remains unsettled. But only in Poland has a government minister felt compelled to deny that riot police were called to prevent a sit-in protest by hundreds of students at the removal of crucifixes from their college. Mr Jerzy Urban stressed that all crucifixes in schools must go, while conceding that hospitals - also state institutions - could allow patients a cross above their bed "if this does not arouse a protest by fellow patients".

Governments in the Soviet block vary greatly, but they are invariably deeply hostile to religion; not because it is, as they claim, a "vestige of the past", but because its appeal is growing even among the young who find Marxism-Leninism boring beyond belief. Marx, of course, called religion the "opium of the people" but perhaps even Mr Chernenko has forgotten that Marx also said: "Religion is the sigh of an oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, just as it is the spirit of a spiritless situation."

The Catholic University of Lublin recently conducted a study into the beliefs of young people in seven Polish towns. The results were banned from publication in Poland but reached Keston College in Kent which has gained a world-wide reputation for its reliable research on religion in communist lands. More than 90 per cent of the 1,500 young Poles questioned in the study stated that they were ready to sacrifice their life for their faith, while less than

five per cent would do so for socialist ideals. Official statistics, evidently adapted to keep figures low, confirm the persistence of religious faith. The Czechoslovak Institute of Scientific Atheism reports that "representative sociological surveys" suggest that 51 per cent of Slovaks and 30 per cent of Czechs are religious believers. Despite six decades of harsh persecution, in the USSR one in three adults has religious beliefs while only 15 per cent claim to be convinced atheists - again according to official estimates.

Tens of thousands of Lithuanians have signed petitions for the release of two of their priests sentenced last year to long terms in prison camps. The combination of religious and nationalistic feelings presents the authorities with as strong a challenge to their policies as it does among fellow Catholics in neighbouring Poland.

The Russian Orthodox Church has had longer to adapt than the Catholics of Lithuania and Western Ukraine. The official League of Militant Atheists burned icons, closed down churches, and produced anti-religious propaganda until the Nazi invasion forced Stalin to reach an agreement with the Patriarchy to add its considerable influence to the war effort in return for better treatment. The League then turned its printing presses to producing books in English for the Allies against religious freedom in the USSR.

Spreading this false message abroad remains high priority in the Kremlin, which devoted almost as much effort to it as it does to promoting atheism at home. Visits by foreign church-

men are exploited, as in the case of the Reverend Billy Graham's trip to Moscow. Dissident priests, well-known in the West, are put under terrible pressure to recant their views. Father Dmitri Dudko, who criticized the subservience of the Russian Orthodox hierarchy to the state, was compelled after months in prison to appear before television cameras and denounce his views. He later expressed bitter regret over his false recantation.

The harsh restrictions on Soviet Jews are widely publicised in the West. Less known is the fate of communities such as the Buddhists, whose greatly respected lama, Bideya Dandron, died in a labour camp although some years previously his photograph had illustrated a Moscow brochure on religious freedom. Hundreds of Moslems have been closed and the Koran is virtually unobtainable. Of the few dozen Muslims permitted to visit Mecca, several are planned by the KGB to proclaim the benefits enjoyed by Soviet Muslims.

Among the denominations which are actually banned in the USSR the Baptist *Initiativniki* report many cases of parents who have been separated from their children because they have attempted to teach them the gospel. For people such as these, publicity and support in the West are the main hope. The award of the Templeton Foundation Prize for 1984 to Mr Michael Bourdeaux, the founder and director of Keston College, who has done so much to help believers in the Soviet block, is a welcome acknowledgement of the importance of the work undertaken by him and his colleagues.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Merits in public expenditure planning

From Sir Leo Pliatzky
Sir, May I offer you a different view on the Treasury's green paper on public expenditure and taxation over the next ten years. You seem to have written this off even before it appeared, purely because there was no promise that expenditure projections would be broken down, programme by programme.

Now that it has appeared, your leader of March 15 dismisses it as "a disappointing document, and therefore of limited use to the Government and to the general public". On the contrary, it is a great advance, both as a mine of information and as a basis for policy debate, on anything about public expenditure and taxation in the longer term that has been published before by any government in this country.

Both your newspaper and I have been arguing over the past year in favour of something beyond the annual public expenditure exercises and the public expenditure white papers with their rather arbitrary cash projections for three years ahead. Where we probably differ is that, though I have now been out of government service for several years, I still think in terms of the practicalities from the Government's point of view. I do, for instance, see the practical objections, which there is no space to develop here, to publishing ten-year projections for individual programmes.

In the October, 1983, issue of *Policy Studies* (the journal of the Policy Studies Institute) I wrote as follows: "What appears to be needed now is an assessment of public expenditure trends in, say, five years time in real terms, and perhaps extrapolating these trends for further five years, on the basis of existing policies or on some stated variation of policy, and of the implications for the expenditure/gross domestic product ratio (and thus for taxation) on alternative assumptions about economic growth... Unless some such advance can be made towards an agreed appraisal, as background for the major expenditure choices, it seems likely to container."

With the encouragement of the Westminster City Council a small committee has been formed to ensure that the anniversary is properly marked. The main celebrations will be in the spring and early summer of 1985, including a wide range of events under the title of "Westminster 400". These will allow as many as possible of those who live and work in the city to take part; also we are anxious to raise funds for good causes in the city.

Our first aim is to provide a framework within which others can arrange appropriate celebrations, but we shall be handling three or four main events ourselves. We shall be making specific approaches to individuals, businesses, and institutions whose co-operation will be essential for the success of the venture. Meanwhile, inquiries and offers of help and advice should be addressed to the Secretary General, Westminster Quatercentenary Celebrations Committee, Room 18.24, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, SW1. Yours faithfully,

HAILSHAM OF ST MARYLEBONE, EDWARD WEATHERILL, NEVILLE LABOVITCH, WESTMINSTER, SALISBURY, EDWARD CARPENTER, PETER BROOKE, HUGH RUBIN, ION SHEAR, C.A. PRENDERGAST, DAVID KINGSLEY, MAURICE COLTON, c/o 9 Deane Crescent, SE11. March 14.

Levels of education

From the Headmaster of Bristol Grammar School
Sir, Many schools will welcome the letter from Lord Flowers (March 8) urging us to consider the introduction of a new intermediate level examination having half the value of A level and taken alongside it. This will go some way towards meeting the need for extra breadth which, for example, the international Baccalaureate provides.

The Secondary Heads Association International Relations Committee has been looking at this problem and

Picture of Liverpool

From Mr R.A. Longmire
Sir, If the intention of Peter Lennon's article (March 2) was to give Liverpool the kiss of death, he could not have done a better job had he come from Manchester. A "phantom city... in its death throes... without resources... rotting for decades... surely this is journalistic hyperbole gone through the roof?" Even cheerful stoicism in the face of adversity is cause for complaint - almost as though the author was disappointed that the citizens were not rioting in the streets. He does make some nods towards the brighter spots - the new container port, the motor industry, the Garden Festival - only to dismiss them as unimportant, doomed to failure, or fit only as subjects for deprecatory Liverpool humour.

An unemployment figure of 20 per cent is, of course, quite

grandiose schemes for changing the processes for making these choices.

It was at that time by no means certain that we should get this much from the Treasury. In the event the green paper gives me, for one, what I thought it reasonable to ask for.

It is to be hoped that the Select Committee on the Treasury and the Civil Service will now probe the Treasury thesis that only by holding public expenditure at its present level in real terms (an objective which has rather painful implications) can we get taxation back, at best, to the level of the early nineteen seventies.

Yours sincerely, LEO PLIATZKY, 27 River Court, Upper Ground, SE1. March 16.

From Mr D.E. Wiseman
Sir, In your leader on the green paper on public expenditure you state that it is politically difficult to publish a list of options because it "is assumed to be more than that, a set of firm government decisions which have to be defended".

If this is true one must despair at the ignorance of the planning process, for the evaluation of alternative courses lies at the heart of all planning - a simple enough concept.

One would also have to despair that we can have informed public debate on any subject since your statement implies that Whitehall is incapable of communicating such a simple concept to Westminster and Fleet Street. I believe that this is not true and that we must look elsewhere for an explanation of uninformative government papers.

Yours faithfully, D.E. WISEMAN, Royal Institute of Public Administration, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, WC1. March 16.

Westminster milestone

From The Lord Chancellor and others
Sir, Next year will be the quatercentenary of "an Act for the good Government of the City & Borough of Westminster", which established the first Court of Burgesses there.

Westminster was, of course, a city before 1585 and it is possible to make a case for a number of earlier dates for its foundation, some of considerable antiquity. Nonetheless, the Act of 1585 is a milestone in the evolution of a city of national and international importance and it should not pass unnoticed.

With the encouragement of the Westminster City Council a small committee has been formed to ensure that the anniversary is properly marked. The main celebrations will be in the spring and early summer of 1985, including a wide range of events under the title of "Westminster 400". These will allow as many as possible of those who live and work in the city to take part; also we are anxious to raise funds for good causes in the city.

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The Secondary Heads Association International Relations Committee has been looking at this problem and

studying the practice in French and German schools. It may well be that the new "C" levels have to be voluntary since some schools will experience staffing difficulties in providing more science, mathematics and language teaching. Let us hope that the specialists at the universities in subjects like the sciences, engineering and medicine will be able to give a more wholehearted assent to Lord Flowers' proposals, which should also be well received by industry and commerce.

I must, however, express my dismay when he describes the curriculum at present followed by

unacceptable and everything should be done to reduce it, both locally and nationally. But what of the work force which is employed? These people are presumably no worse off than in other conurbations. Liverpool continues to be an important shipping, banking and insurance city, an educational and legal centre and a lively wholesale and retail market. Despite the hard knocks of recent years, its industry is more widely based than it was 50 years ago, when it was wholly port-orientated.

Its cultural activities are the equal of any city outside London and the £6.2m which the Merseyside authority spent on its museums and art galleries in 1983-84 - more than any other metropolitan region, apart from the GLC - does not suggest a community in its death agony.

Patients' consent to medical treatment

From Professor J.K. Mason and Dr R.A. McCall Smith

Sir, The idea that patients should give an informed consent to medical or surgical treatment has been accepted in medical and legal circles for some years. Two recent cases which, thus far, are reported only in the columns of your Law Report, now introduce some confusion.

In the first (*Sidaway v Board of Governors of the Bethlem Royal Hospital and the Maudsley Hospital*, February 24, CA) the Master of the Rolls is reported as saying: "The concession that a patient who was... capable of exercising a choice was entitled to grant or withhold consent to treatment as he saw fit must carry with it some duty to give information to the patient which would enable him... to reach a rational decision."

Later he said: "The courts could not stand idly by if the profession... denied their patients a real choice. The law would not permit the medical profession to play God". To which Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson added: "It was important that the law should establish that there was a *prima facie* duty to inform."

In these pronouncements the court appeared to be accepting the general outlines of "informed consent" as it is generally understood and simply applying the anticipated British "professional standard" in determining what a patient should be told, rather than the transatlantic "patient standard" in one of its various forms. The difficulty is then introduced by Lord Justice Dunn's concurring opinion that "the doctrine of 'informed consent' forms no part of English law".

EEC budget deal

From Lord Gladwyn

Sir, There is real apprehension on the part of many people that the negotiations at the European Council may break down over Mrs Thatcher's insistence on our not paying more into the EEC budget than a (net) £300m annually. Always supposing that we get back the agreed refund of £475m - as we certainly should - the amount we paid in during 1983 was about £650m.

For a country which, thanks to oil, has a very healthy balance of payments (not enjoyed by our partners) this is well within our means and could form the basis of some "long-term" settlement for (say) five years after which, should circumstances change, there might be a re-negotiation.

NHS pay bed charges

From Mr J.B. Randle

Sir, We have a Government which loses no opportunity in telling us that it is not only meeting the inevitably rising costs of hospital care but is also providing more resources each year.

How, then, can the Secretary of State for Social Services announce pay bed prices for private patients which will lead to a lower bill for a patient in a London postgraduate hospital in March, 1985, than would have been charged in April, 1983 - virtually two years earlier? Admittedly the cash amount is similar, but the new rate includes an amount for the supply of blood, which ministers are so anxious should be paid for.

Independent hospitals and many NHS administrators know that pay bed charges have always been unrealistically low and do not reflect the true costs of care, let alone provide any sensible provision for capital replacement.

Gloom deferred

From the President of the Confederation of British Industry

Sir, In his letter on the National Economic Development Council (March 13) Sir Geoffrey Chandler, its former Director General, refers to "the unpublished NEDC report", farcically misused in the election campaign and says its publication was postponed at the behest of the CBI on the ground that it was politically sensitive. This is quite untrue.

The CBI did not deny its factual content but warned it included no progress on achievement and concluded it would be of considerable help to countries competing with Britain for inward investment. We recommended that it should not be published until positive ideas were included on what had been and what might be done about our competitiveness.

This was supported by the TUC and the Government and it was unanimously agreed that publication should be deferred.

I am delighted to tell your readers that some progress has been and is now being made. Yours faithfully, CAMPBELL FRASER, Confederation of British Industry, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, WC1.

Honours where due

From Mr John Myall

Sir, Will you and your colleagues of the press never learn that the Civil Service is not composed solely of Permanent Secretaries (leader, March 15). However those luminaries may fare, be assured that honours do not come with the pay and rations of the vast majority of civil servants. The ratons of the majority whom you may take to be honourable people, by the large, are more likely to include large portions of revilement and hard cheese. My honour, and that of thousands of colleagues, is to remain, Sir, Your obedient servant, JOHN MYALL, 13 Colwell Close, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. March 15.

The result is that in the second case (*Freeman v Home Office*, March 8, CA) Lord Justice Stephen Brown held that "... it was not open for it to be argued for the plaintiff that 'informed consent' was a consideration which could be entertained by the courts".

We submit that if this be so the law is stepping backwards. Mrs Sidaway's operation was in 1974 and the climate of public opinion has moved significantly since then. Patients do expect to be involved in decision-making and it is, at least, doubtful whether, as Dunn LJ said, "most patients prefer to put themselves unreservedly in the hands of their doctors".

The doctor-patient relationship may have developed in this country in this way but it is likely that it is no longer doing so. It is by no means self-evident that acceptance of informed consent is damaging to the relationship of trust and confidence between doctor and patient; rather, to deny it may be to leave patients wondering what the doctor is hiding.

The legal correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* (288 at 803) believes that Mrs Sidaway is unlikely to succeed in her appeal to the House of Lords. This may be so, but it is to be hoped that courts in future do not allow their preference for the "professional standard" in these matters to extend to rejection of the general concept of informed consent to medical treatment. We are, Sir, yours faithfully, J.K. MASON, R.A. MCCALL SMITH, University of Edinburgh, Medical School, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, March 13.

Additional reasons for not quarrelling over an amount which is trifling compared with our gap or our total expenditure are:

- (a) the fact that, by our own choice, we still import considerable quantities of food from outside the Community, thereby increasing our liability;
- (b) the fact that, if we are classed as "poor", it is our own fault for producing goods more expensively than our neighbours - something that Mrs Thatcher is determined to rectify;
- (c) the fact that, again by our own choice, we declined to become an original member of the Community after negotiating terms less onerous both agriculturally and financially.

Yours truly, GLADWYN, House of Lords. March 16.

If the Government really wants a partnership with the independent sector, then it is time to let that partnership develop on an equal footing of cost and not perpetuate the subsidy of private patients in NHS hospitals for the sake of political expediency towards pressure groups.

The significant growth in independent hospitals is a valuable contribution to the health care of the country. It will continue, but it should not be inhibited by an artificial pricing structure which tends to encourage private patients to the NHS to give an apparent - but not real - boost to strained health authority budgets. Rather let us aim for a balance which can return the NHS beds for clearing some of the over-long waiting lists.

Yours faithfully, J.B. RANDLE, Administrator and Secretary, Association of Independent Hospitals, 14 Fitzroy Square, W1.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Investment is as investment does

For years now, every soapbox economist (a category that includes journalists as well as politicians) has been lecturing industry on the need to invest. To compete with Japan and West Germany, it was repeated *ad nauseam*, we needed robots and microchips in place of men and spanners. Now we have a Chancellor who tells us we may have been over-investing unproductively, and at the expense of jobs. And the Confederation of British Industry joins the stock market in roundly applauding Mr Nigel Lawson's bold first Budget.

Of course these two views are not necessarily contradictory. We may, in typically cack-handed British fashion, have been investing mightily in all the wrong things. But does that mean we now need more, or less investment? This is a tangle that needs teasing out, not only because it is at the centre of Mr Lawson's Budget, but also because it lies at the heart of the amorphous political debate about the right economic policies for the oil years. Since oil tax revenues are now at their peak (the Budget Red Book actually shows them declining after 1984-85), the Great Debate needs concluding if it is to serve any purpose at all.

When it began in the late 1970s, the standard conclusion was the oil years should be characterized by high investment, to replace one national asset by others. The past five years have been characterized by low investment, both private and public, and rising real wages. In other words, we have so far used the oil years to accustom ourselves (provided we still have a job) to a higher standard of living.

Now there was a good deal of moral cant involved in the plea for personal austerity and public investment – not to mention special pleading by the construction industry. But it does bear re-examination at the moment when oil revenues are at their peak – and Mr Lawson is dismantling the system of tax incentives for industrial investment.

His case is that we have had a grossly distortive system of taxation on private industry, which penalized the use of labour compared to capital. While investment was encouraged by capital allowances, employment was discouraged by the National Insurance Surcharge. As a result, we have accumulated a huge stock of capital which has yielded neither a respectable increase in output nor a decent rate of return, but may meanwhile have contributed to rising unemployment.

Quite a bit of this is historically demonstrable – or as demonstrable as scanty international figures permit. By 1980, Britain had a higher stock of capital per worker in manufacturing than either the United States or West Germany (unhappily, there are no comparable Japanese figures). Although total investment had been low, by international standards, investment in manufacturing plant and machinery had not. Yet during the preceding seven years the British had required much more new capital to generate each extra snippet of output than either the Americans or the Germans.

So both the United States and West Germany (even France, for that matter) has managed to produce more than twice as much manufacturing output with each unit of manufacturing capital as Britain had. British industry's rate of return has shrivelled to 2 to 3 per cent by the beginning of the decade, way below that of our competitors.

Miserable rates of return were particularly evident in Britain's public sector. The 1960s and 1970s were the era of massive ill-fated investment plans by the nationalized industries, directly encouraged by government.

But a great deal has changed since 1979-80. In the public sector, investment was first squeezed out by the bill for rising public-sector wages, then by the bill for

rising private-sector unemployment. Now it is rising again, though without great impetus. The Treasury is better at the (necessary) job of weeding out projects with no visible rate of return than at energising the public sector, or the public services in particular, to design investment plans yielding real benefits. In the private sector, investment in manufacturing fell by a third – much more than output, and even more than employment. Even after some recovery, a recent Bank of England analysis pointed out that over the past three years investment in manufacturing has been so low that it has failed to keep pace with depreciation. With employment and its capital base both shrinking, manufacturing managed a dramatic improvement in both labour productivity and the rate of return, to perhaps 6 per cent last year.

But Britain can hardly go on slaughtering its way to greater efficiency, simply by culling the least productive plants and workforces out of the statistics. Now output has been rising, even in manufacturing, investment ought to follow strongly. Mr Lawson has temporarily made this more certain: the way in which capital allowances are being abolished will encourage companies to bring their plans forward, and the Treasury has raised its forecast of the rise in total investment this year from 4 to 6½ per cent. This means investment may fall off in 1986-77, which could be a difficult time for the Government. But this is a long-term reform, and should be judged as such.

So will it tend to discourage capital spending? Sir Terence Beckett, for the Confederation of British Industry, has entered a caveat on behalf of "sunrise industries". But it is hard to suppose they will be deterred by a new tax, by international standards. (A recent study by the International Monetary Fund showed that Japan and West Germany taxed investment without noticeably discouraging sunbeams.) There is more risk that older, slimmer-down industries will sit tight on their profits rather than invest in expansion. But it has often been the burden of extra labour, not extra capital, that has deterred expansion over the past decade. Mr Lawson could argue that by switching the tax system he has redressed that balance too.

Here, however, the argument gets a little more complex. The single, overwhelming case for Mr Lawson's courageous tax reform is that it restores profitability to its rightful pride of place in company decisions, uncluttered by tax-planning, enhanced by the ability to retain the lion's share of profits. It may be helpful to resent this as an employment policy too, but it is more debatable. Removing the subsidies from investment will encourage companies to extract the maximum benefit from capital spending; but while that could mean employing an extra shift, it could also mean less willingness to allow two men to carry out a job which can now be done by only one. Both pressures increase British efficiency. Only the first creates extra jobs.

Similarly, the Chancellor may find it tactful to follow the CBI in denouncing the National Insurance Surcharge as a "tax on jobs". To do so completes the picture of his company tax reforms as one in which the burden of taxation is switched from men to machines. And that is a fair picture. But in strict point of fact, the surcharge was a tax not on jobs but on pay – and its abolition at this stage in the economic cycle could as easily boost wage inflation as employment. Mr Lawson's done well to reform corporation tax, with no damage to profitable private-sector investment. But the pattern of employment and wage is in industry's hands.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

Stock Exchange may call for law to police non-members

By Philip Robinson

The Stock Exchange may call for government help to ensure that future outside market makers in equities play by the same rules as its own members once fixed commissions are abolished in the next two years.

Senior Stock Exchange members want legislation to make non-members report the last price at which a transaction took place. This would be done through a central electronic price display system run by the exchange, which believes that this is vital for the continued protection of the investor.

The suggestion that the Government might be called in to help, represents a dramatic change of stance for the exchange. It had previously argued that its own rules would be enough to see fair play.

However, as traditional barriers between different parts of the City fall, pressure is increasing for legislation to cover the behaviour of them all.

Possible solutions to the problem of how adequately to protect the investor once fixed commissions go on one single day by the end of next year will be discussed tomorrow by the Stock Exchange Council.

It will consider a 66-page document detailing for the first time the sweeping changes likely to hit member firms in 1985-86. This comes after last summer's agreement with the Government that the securities market be reformed in return for dropping legal action over the Exchange's rulebook.

The report is drawn from work by two committees each under the chairmanship of one

of the Stock Exchange's deputy chairmen, Mr Charles Elington has looked at the effects of change on the Stock Exchange constitution. Mr Patrick Milford-Slade has studied ways to replace the stockjobbing system with an electronic-based method of investor protection.

Officials are looking forward to the time when a single outsider will be able to own 100 per cent of a Stock Exchange firm. The present maximum for a single shareholder is 29.9 per cent, but this is likely to be abandoned once fixed commissions are introduced.

The exchange's document also sets out how outsiders will have to pay a high price for buying into the exchange.

One senior exchange member said: "They are not walking in here to take a share of the

building and the technology and other systems that have been built up without paying heavily for it as assets and good will."

The discussion document also sets out guidelines on dual capacity – the merging of agent and principal. These are presently separated under a single capacity system designed to minimize conflicts of interests and allow competitive pressures to give the investor the best price.

The death knell for single capacity was sounded by Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, in a speech two weeks ago which spelt out the City changes of which the bank approved, to keep London in the forefront of world securities markets.

Oil survey firm goes to market

By William Kay
City Editor

The stock market's appetite for brain-driven companies is to be tested again this week in the offer for sale of 2,564,000 shares in Robertson Research at 160p.

The company, originally set up as minerals assessment service for the Robertson family's quarrying interests in North Wales, has developed into a significant oil and gas survey group operating throughout the world on behalf of most of the big names in the industry.

At the core of the group are Dr Robert Cummings and Dr William Brown, two former Shell geologists who have close links with Glasgow University. Together with Dr Francis Robertson, they have built the group to the point where it is forecasting an increase in profits from £97,000 to not less than



Dr Cummings: behind research company's rise

£1,700,000 for the year ending this month.

An estimated tax charge of 40 per cent puts the shares on a price/earnings ratio of 17.7 at 160p. But the tax charge takes no account of the Budget

changes. There will be a special dividend of 1p a share for the current year for existing shareholders. Newcomers will have to wait until next year, when the dividend is expected to be 3p.

The Stock Exchange has given permission for only about 20 per cent of the shares to be floated. Most of these will come from SNC, a Canadian engineering design group which also has large stakes in Robertson's US and Canadian subsidiaries. This is clearly a key relationship. The other important factor is the continued presence of the top personnel: most are on long-term contracts.

Judging by the number of advance orders of *The Times* by people wanting the Robertson prospectus, there should be a rush for this issue when lists open and close on Thursday morning.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Short Bros set to win launch aid

Approval by the Northern Ireland Office is expected today for a £30m investment by Short Brothers in a new European twin-jet airliner, to compete with the short-haul British Aerospace 146.

Short Brothers will join the Dutch Fokker and West German Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm companies in the projected 107-seater Fokker F100. The Twin Ralle-Royce Tay-powered airliner is designed to succeed the smaller Fokker F28, with a maiden flight in 1986 and introduction in 1987.

Any criticism that government grants are going into a competitor to BAe will be countered with the argument that with British power plants, systems, and Belfast-built wings the F100 will be as much British in content as the BAe 146.

● Lloyd's Eurofinance NV, a subsidiary of Lloyd's Bank, is raising \$255m (£174m) through a guaranteed floating rate note, repayable in April 2004, at ¼ over the mean of the London Interbank Bid and Offered Rates for six-month dollar deposits.

● Saudi Arabia has devalued the Riyal by 0.3 per cent against the dollar, to 3.52 from 3.51, down from 3.48 since Christmas.

● The Stockbrokers W. Greenwell expects 1983 profits of the International Thomson Organisation to climb from £106.7m to £142.4m, and recommend the 800p.

Wytch Farm output reaches 6m barrels

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britain's most productive offshore oil field, at Wytch Farm in Dorset has now produced six million barrels of oil, worth an estimated £20 a barrel to the Treasury in saved imports and in tax payments.

The production figures from the field, which include oil produced during the testing phase when the field was first discovered by British Gas and BP, come a week before the final transfer of the field from British Gas to the Dorset Group of independent oil companies.

British Gas, whose 50 per cent share in the field is being sold to the group at the Government's insistence, is still fighting to make the Government accept full responsibility for the transfer of its share to the Dorset Group. BP will continue to hold a half share in the field and will become the

operator when British Gas transfers the asset.

The Government's plans to have the field transferred to its new owners, led by Tricentrol, have been frustrated by the British Gas Corporation's determination to make the Government meet the cost of indemnifying British Gas against the cost of future legal action.

Sir Dennis Rooke, BGC chairman, has constantly argued that the Dorset Group's £160m offer for the share of Wytch Farm, which Mr Nigel Lawson, the then Minister for Energy, ordered to be accepted, was far short of its own £400m valuation on the field.

However, the Government is now believed to be ready to announce the completion of the deal, despite a rear-guard action by the British Gas board.

Stylo bid likely to lapse

By Jonathan Clare

The contested £35m bid by Harris Queensway for Stylo, the family-controlled Bradford shoe company, is almost certain to lapse on Wednesday.

Mr Phil Harris, chairman of the carpet and furniture retailing group, has been unsuccessful in persuading the controlling Ziff family to meet him, even with the lure of the written promise of a higher offer in return for a recommendation.

Mr David Horne of Lloyds Bank International, Stylo's merchant bank advisers, said: "I am not doing anything and I

am not going to have a meeting. I would say there is a virtually zero chance of a meeting, certainly after their last letter."

The Harris side is now pessimistic about arranging a meeting, despite a high level of acceptance of more than 55 per cent from shareholders for the 325p a share offer.

Stylo is firmly controlled by the Ziff family through an old-fashioned two-tier share structure. Harris' 55.4 per cent level of acceptance gives it only 31.3 per cent of the voting rights.

£50m trust looks East

Application lists open tomorrow for CJB Pacific, the biggest investment trust yet, worth £50m, to invest in Japanese equities and other Pacific markets. The trust will be floated via an offer for sale of 40 million shares at £1, and Charterhouse J. Rothschild has agreed to subscribe for a further 10 million shares at the same price.

Mr Richard Thornton, formerly of GT Management, will be chairman of the new trust, and he plans to invest primarily for capital appreciation. He has his eye on Australia, Malaysia, South Korea, Hongkong and Singapore, and there will be no limitation on the size of the companies in which the trust invests.

Unless there is a shareholders' special resolution, the trust will be wound up in 1994. The trust managers are aiming for a 20 per cent growth rate, so the risk-reward ratio is clearly high. It could be an exciting purchase for investors who favour a dash of Eastern promise.

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STOCK EXCHANGES

Change on week
FT-SE 100 Index: 1285.5 up 68.4
FT Index: 884.3 up 53.4
FT Cites: 83.33 up 0.19
FT All Share: 528.88 up 27.54
Bargains: 28.94 up 4.931
Debtstream USM Leaders Index: 111.59 up 3.18
New York Dow Jones Average: 1184.36 up 44.8
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,458.31 up 461.09
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 130.69
Amsterdam: 170.9 up 1.2
Frankfurt Commerzbank Index: 1038.9
Brussels: General Index 144.65
Paris: CAC Index 161.3

CURRENCIES

LONDON
Change on week
Sterling \$1.4470 down 0.0135
Index 80.9 up 0.1
DM 3.7800 up 0.02
FF 11.6925 up 0.08
Yen 327.00 down 0.50
Dollar Index 126.7 up 1.1
DM 2.6205 up 0.0363
NEW YORK
Sterling \$1.4470
Dollar DM 2.6308 up 0.0468

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8½
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 6½
3 month interbank 8¼-8½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10¼-10½
3 month DM 5¼-6¼
3 month FF 15¼-15½
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9¼
Treasury long bond 9¾-9⅞

THE GILT-EDGED MARKET

'Long-range' Budget will speed industry financing

According to Goodhart's Law, as soon as the Bank of England announces a target for a monetary aggregate, all previously established relationships between that aggregate and everything else break down. The corollary is that, to judge the stance of monetary policy, attention should be focused on the aggregates for which the Bank does not have targets. The table compromises and looks at everything.

If the very broadest aggregate, PSL2, is excluded, there has been a substantial reduction in the rate of growth of every aggregate.

During the last six months, the growth of sterling M3 and PSL1 has been steady at around the bottom of the 7-11% target range for broad monetary growth during the financial year just ending. The narrow aggregates have continued to decelerate; the growth of M0 during the last three months has been at the bottom of its 4-8% target range for the coming financial year. Data for M0 during the last four weeks suggest that this sluggish rate of growth is continuing. There are two conclusions from this pattern of monetary growth. First, the recent cut in base rates was justified. Secondly, general confirmation is provided of the forecast of inflation contained in the Budget speech.

The Financial Statement and Budget Report (FSBR) contains a forecast of a rise in the Retail Price Index of a little above 5 per cent a year in the first half of

1984, slowing to 4½ per cent a year by the fourth quarter 1984 and 4 per cent a year by the second quarter of 1985. The Treasury's forecast of inflation last year was originally received with considerable scepticism, as being optimistically low. In the event it was 1 per cent too high. This year the only substantial inflationary worry is the behaviour of earnings, currently increasing by 7½ per cent a year. Productivity is continuing to rise fast, however, so that the Treasury's inflation forecast for 1984 seems only a fraction on the low side.

Looking further into the future, the Government's intentions about inflation are clear from the statement of its Medium Term Financial Strategy. The important feature is the way in which the illustrative projections of monetary growth decline by 1 per cent a year, implying a similar fall in inflation. While it is true that the Treasury has used higher rates of inflation for the purpose of converting public expenditure from cash to volume terms and vice versa, this appears to be a deliberately conservative assumption.

Rebound fears

The Budget forecast for the PSBR in 1984/5 is £7½ billion, or 2½ per cent of GDP, which looks broadly achievable. In comparison to this time last year, there is a much more substantial contingency reserve (£2.7 billion as against £1.1

Robert Thomas

Monetary Growth

% p.a.	12 months to mid-June 83	12 months to mid-Feb 84	6 months to mid-Feb 84	3 months to mid-Feb 84
M0	6	5	5	3
Currency	8	8	8	4
Retail M1	11	8	6	4
M2	16	11	8	n.a.
M3	9	9	n.a.	n.a.
PSL1	11	10	7	8
PSL2	12	12	10	14

billion), no assumption of a shortfall in public expenditure (as against £1.6 billion last year) and no gross lack of expenditure control going into the new year. There is, however, some concern that the quality of the factors reducing the PSBR in 1984/5 is poor, in that they include both a once-and-for-all acceleration of VAT on imports of £1.2 billion and higher asset sales of £1.9 billion. It is likely that much of the former will be financed through the banking system and some of the latter by lower purchases of government debt. The reduction in the PSBR from these measures will not, therefore, have as large an offset on monetary growth as normal.

A second point concerns fears of a rebound in the PSBR in 1985/6 given that there will no longer be a benefit from acceleration of VAT on imports. The "full year" effect of the Budget measures in isolation is to raise the PSBR by £1.7 billion more than in

1984/5. The Treasury's projection for 1985/6 is, however, for a PSBR of £5 billion before "fiscal adjustment" of £2 billion (i.e. before cuts in taxation, etc). The reason for this low figure is increased revenue from the forecast 3 per cent growth in economic activity at a time when the Government plans to hold public expenditure unchanged in real terms. Additionally, receipts of corporation tax will rise because they will be based on the higher profits currently being earned.

Incentive

The tax changes announced in the Budget are likely to make the profile of the PSBR during 1984/5 rather unusual. The accelerated VAT payments will be largely received in the three months from November, and the major asset sales are not expected until the autumn. This means that, in comparison with the normal seasonal factors, the PSBR will be tending to run at a

higher rate in the first half of the year and a lower rate thereafter. The amount which companies will need to borrow will also be higher in the second half of 1984/5. By far the most significant aspect of the Budget for financial markets is the restructuring of corporate taxation. This will have a very complex series of effects, some affecting markets immediately, others operating in the medium term and still others being influential in the long term. In the short term, however, the announcement of the withdrawal of capital allowances and the promised reduction in corporation tax provide a major incentive for companies to bring forward capital investment into the fourth quarter of 1984 and the first quarter of 1985. Although the effect is currently uncertain, experience of a similar change at the end of 1968 suggests that it is quite possible that £1 billion or more of investment may be accelerated. This effect will take place when investment is rising for other reasons.

The higher rate of investment will have to be financed. It will also be taking place at a time when companies have to pay the accelerated VAT on imports and large amounts of corporation tax. It is likely, therefore, that there will be significant temporary financing pressures starting in the last quarter of 1984.

How will the financing be done? Again, the Budget proposals have implications. First,

the reduction in first year allowances reduces the attractiveness of leasing but benefits still remain up to March 1985 with allowances at 75 per cent. Secondly, the reduction in the rate of corporation tax will eventually make equity finance more attractive relative to borrowing, but the full effect will not be felt until the rate of corporation tax falls to 33 per cent in 1986. Thirdly, the removal of capital gains tax from corporate bonds issued after the Budget, if they are held for more than a year, will make such bonds more attractive to individuals and net funds.

Boost to M3

It is, however, unlikely to lead to an immediate major revival in the corporate bond market at current yields.

Summarizing, the Budget proposals will have a significant long run impact on the way in which industry raises its finance. The pressures which are likely to appear around the end of this year will, however, largely be met by bank borrowing or leasing. This will imply a boost to sterling M3 and the other broad monetary aggregates in the second half of the 1984/5 financial year. The surge may be only temporary, and should be reversed in the following financial year, but it could unsettle the gilt-edged market as interpretation of the aggregates will be difficult.

The author is economics partner of brokers W. Greenwell & Co.

Allied Irish Banks Limited

announce that with effect from
close of business on
4th October 1983
its Base Rate is reduced
from 9½% to 9% p.a.

Head Office - Britain: 64-66 Coleman Street
London EC2R 5AL

Cable and Wireless plc

Ordinary Shares of 50p each

Offer for Sale by Tender
by the Bank of England
on behalf of H.M. Government
in conjunction with
Kleinwort, Benson Limited
Payment of Interim Dividend Due
31st March 1984

Holders of shares sold in the above Offer for Sale should note that dividend mandates currently in force will not be applied to the payment of the interim dividend on such shares due on 31st March 1984. Accordingly, all warrants for the interim dividend on such shares will be sent by first class post to the addresses of the first-named registered holders on 30th March 1984.

All enquiries regarding this matter should be addressed to:-

National Westminster Bank PLC
Registrar's Department
PO Box No 82
37 Broad Street
Bristol BS99 7NH

Copies of this Offer for Sale, having attached thereto the documents specified herein, have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration. Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the Ordinary Share capital of Robertson Research plc ("the Company") in issue and now being issued to be admitted to the Official List. This Offer for Sale includes particulars given in compliance with the Regulations of the Council of The Stock Exchange for the purpose of giving information with regard to the Company and its subsidiaries. The directors of the Company have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated herein are true and accurate in all material respects and that there are no other material facts the omission of which would make misleading any statement herein whether of fact or of opinion. All the directors of the Company accept responsibility accordingly. The Application List for the Ordinary Shares now offered for sale will open at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 22nd March, 1984 and may be closed at any time thereafter. The procedure for application and an application form are set out at the end of this Offer for Sale.



Robertson Research plc

Offer for Sale

by

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

of

2,564,365 Ordinary Shares of 10p each
at 160p per share
payable in full on application

Share capital		Issued and now being issued fully paid
Authorised		
£1,600,000	in Ordinary Shares of 10p each	1,225,000
The Ordinary Shares now offered for sale rank in full for all dividends hereafter declared or paid except for the special dividend already declared in respect of the year ending 31st March, 1984.		
Indebtedness		
At the close of business on 24th February, 1984 the Company and its subsidiaries had outstanding bank overdrafts of £683,000 and term loans of £750,000 (all of which are secured by fixed and floating charges on the assets of the Company and certain of its subsidiaries) and hire purchase obligations of £574,000. The Company and its subsidiaries also had certain contingent liabilities totalling £1,591,000 in respect of their own leasing contracts, a third party's leasing contracts and counter-indemnities for bank guarantees given in respect of, inter alia, performance bonds. At the same date one of the Company's subsidiaries had outstanding £77,000 nominal of debentures and the Company and its subsidiaries had outstanding the guarantees of associated companies' lease obligations and overdrafts described in paragraphs D(xii) and D(xiii) of the accountants' report. Save as aforesaid and apart from intra group liabilities neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries had at the close of business on that date any loan capital outstanding or created but unissued, or any term loans, or any outstanding mortgages, charges, debentures or other borrowings or indebtedness in the nature of borrowing, including bank overdrafts, liabilities under acceptances (other than normal trade bills) or acceptance credits, hire purchase commitments or any guarantees or other material contingent liabilities. At the close of business on the same date the Company and its subsidiaries had cash at bank of £1,261,000. For the purpose of this paragraph amounts in currencies other than sterling have been translated into sterling at the rates of exchange prevailing on 24th February, 1984.		
Definitions		
In this document, where the context permits, the following expressions shall bear the following meanings:—		
'the Company'	Robertson Research plc	
'Robertson Research' or 'the Group'	the Company and all or any of its subsidiaries	
'RRI'	Robertson Research International Limited, a subsidiary of the Company	
'Ordinary Shares'	Ordinary Shares of 10p each in the Company	
'Offer for Sale'	the offer for sale of Ordinary Shares as described in this document	
'Greenwich'	Greenwich Resources Inc.	
'SNC'	SNC Enterprises Limited and/or all or any of its subsidiaries	

Introduction

Robertson Research provides an extensive range of geological and related technical services throughout the world to organisations engaged in the exploration for and development of hydrocarbons and other minerals and natural resources. The Group's commercial success is founded on the quality of its work, the professional expertise which it has built up over a number of years and the range of services which it offers. Clients include major oil and mining companies, public utilities, national and local governments, government agencies and international development organisations. In addition to undertaking individually commissioned projects, the Group carries out multi-client studies for groups of clients with a common interest in a particular subject. Robertson Research has its headquarters in Llandudno, North Wales and has operating subsidiaries in the United States, Canada, Singapore and Australia. The Group has over 650 employees, of whom over 280 are professionally qualified, including 52 with doctorate degrees. Three quarters of the Group's employees are based in the United Kingdom.

History and development

Robertson Research was founded in 1961 and had its origins in an association between Dr. Robert Cummings, who was then a senior tutor in geology at the University of Glasgow, and Dr. William Brown, at that time a petroleum geologist with Shell, together with members and associates of the Robertson family. The Group's original activity was the provision of mineral assessment services for the Robertson family's quarrying interests which were located principally in North Wales. From this base Robertson Research developed its services in connection with mineral exploration in Britain and overseas. In 1970 an Australian subsidiary was established to provide geological and engineering services to the Australian mining industry.

Robertson Research's involvement with the petroleum industry began in 1962 with the provision of geological services, mainly in Ireland and also in Britain. This experience enabled the Group to establish a leading position in the provision of independent geological services to the North Sea oil and gas industries from the start of North Sea exploration activity in 1964. From these beginnings the range of services has developed to meet the expanding requirements of the petroleum industry, initially in the North Sea and later on a world-wide basis. To widen the Group's geographical coverage and to meet overseas demand for its services, local operations were established in Singapore in 1970, in Calgary in 1972 and in Houston in 1978. The Australian subsidiary extended its activities to include petroleum services in 1971.

In 1972 the Group undertook a joint project to evaluate petroleum exploration data available on the North West Continental Shelf of Australia with the objective of selling the evaluation to a number of exploration companies interested in the area. The Group has since developed a policy of identifying opportunities for such multi-client studies and reports have been prepared covering many areas which are of interest to organisations engaged in the exploration for and development of petroleum, coal and other minerals. In recent years multi-client reports have accounted for over 25 per cent. of the Group's turnover from petroleum services.

The Group has expanded its services from exploration geology to include reservoir geology and other techniques applied in later phases of an oilfield's development. Since 1977 Robertson Research has used the specialist skills in reservoir engineering and economic evaluation of its associate, ERG Energy Resource Consultants Limited ("ERG"), on projects where their services are complementary.

Summary of information

The information set out below should be read in conjunction with the full text of the Offer for Sale.

Business

Robertson Research is a British-based group providing a wide range of geological and other technical services relating to the exploration for and development of energy and other natural resources throughout the world. The Group, which has a staff of over 650 and whose clients include governments and major oil and mining companies, operates from headquarters in North Wales and through principal subsidiaries in North America, Singapore and Australia.

Trading record

Year ended	Turnover	Profit before taxation
31st March	£000	£000
1979	4,139	338
1980	5,988	507
1981	8,652	879
1982	12,635	688
1983	14,861	997
Six months ended 30th September, 1983	7,114	832

Forecast for the year ending 31st March, 1984

The directors forecast that, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances and on the bases and assumptions set out in Appendix II, the profit of the Group before taxation for the year ending 31st March, 1984 will be not less than £1.7 million.

Offer for Sale statistics

Offer for Sale price per share	160p
Number of Ordinary Shares of 10p in issue after the Offer for Sale	12,250,000
Market capitalisation at the Offer for Sale price	£19.6 million
Prospective earnings per share for the year ending 31st March, 1984*	9.1p
Price/earnings multiple based on prospective earnings per share	17.7 times
Notional gross dividend yield based on net dividends per share of 3p	2.68 per cent.
Notional dividend cover based on prospective earnings	3.0 times

*Based on the forecast profit before taxation for the year ending 31st March, 1984 and an estimated tax charge of 40 per cent. A notional 32 per cent. tax charge would result in earnings per share of 7.2p and a prospective price/earnings multiple of 22.1 times. These tax charges take no account of the proposed taxation changes announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget statement on 15th March, 1984.

Whilst petroleum services have become the most significant area of the Group's activity and now account for over 75 per cent. of its turnover, the Group has continued to develop its involvement with other minerals and the water and coal industries, both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

In 1975 the Group commenced the design, manufacture and sale of wireline logging equipment in addition to the range of geotechnical instrumentation which it had been producing for the previous 10 years. Since 1980 Robertson Research has devoted considerable resources to developing its capabilities as a contractor for wireline logging and to the manufacture of related equipment.

In 1980 and 1981 Robertson Research acquired direct and indirect interests in non-hydrocarbon mineral prospects in the United Kingdom, Canada and Sudan as a means of participating in their development potential. These interests have since been exchanged for securities of Greenwich, a Canadian mineral exploration and development company listed on The Toronto and Vancouver Stock Exchanges, as a result of which the Group now has a 15.5 per cent. equity holding in Greenwich.

At the end of 1979 arrangements were made with SNC, a Canadian group engaged in engineering design, procurement and construction, primarily to strengthen the Group's financial position. The arrangements involved SNC acquiring existing shares, subscribing for new shares and providing guarantees for some of the Group's borrowings. As a result of these arrangements SNC held a 29 per cent. interest in the Company, a 49 per cent. interest in its Canadian subsidiary and, with an associated company, a 35 per cent. interest in the Company's United States subsidiary. SNC's interests in these subsidiaries were exchanged for shares in the Company in 1983 and, as a result of these transactions and purchases of shares from other shareholders since 1979, SNC had a 45 per cent. interest in the Company's share capital immediately prior to this Offer for Sale. Following the Offer for Sale, SNC will hold approximately 29 per cent. of the issued share capital of the Company, which it has confirmed it intends to retain as a long term investment.

Further details of the Group's relationship with Greenwich and SNC are set out in Appendix IV.

Business

Robertson Research's turnover for the five years and six months ended 30th September, 1983, divided between its principal activities, was as follows:—

	Year ended 31st March					Six months ended 30th September
	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1983
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Services to the oil and gas industry	2,671	4,200	6,230	9,401	11,557	5,466
Services to the minerals industry	923	1,318	1,910	2,886	2,850	1,131
Wireline logging and other activities	545	470	512	348	454	517
Total turnover	4,139	5,988	8,652	12,635	14,861	7,114

Directors, officers and advisers

Directors

Robert Henry Cummings, OBE, BSc, PhD, FGS, FIMM, FInst Pet, FI Min E, MIGeol, (Chairman)
William Francis Robertson, LLD, (Honorary President)
William Wilson McBride Brown, BSc, PhD, FGS, FIMM, FInst Pet, (Chief Executive)
Herbert Roy Bichan, BSc, PhD, FIMM, MIGeol, (Deputy Chief Executive)
John Thomas Clarke
Lionel Henry James Cook, CD, FIMechE, CEng, MEIC, PEng, (Non-executive)
David Gaunt, (Non-executive)
Alexander Taylor, BSc(Eng), MEIC, MIMechE, PEng, (Non-executive)

all of Ty'n-y-Coed, Llanrhos, Llandudno, Gwynedd, North Wales LL30 1SA

Joint secretaries and registered office

Alexander Macrae Jaffé, MA, FCA
Royce John Chint, MIAS, MBIM
Ty'n-y-Coed, Llanrhos, Llandudno, Gwynedd, North Wales LL30 1SA

Joint auditors and reporting accountants

Ernst & Whinney, Chartered Accountants
Lowry House, 17 Marble Street, Manchester M2 3AW and
Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EV
Aston, Parkinson & Gadd, Chartered Accountants
29 Princes Drive, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, North Wales LL29 8PE

Solicitors to the Company

McKenna & Co.
Inveresk House, 1 Aldwych, London WC2R 0HF

Solicitors to the Offer for Sale

Slaughter and May
35 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DB

Stockbrokers

Grieverson, Grant and Co.
59 Gresham Street, London EC2P 2DS

Principal bankers to the Company and receiving bankers to the Offer for Sale

Bank of Scotland
38 Threadneedle Street, London EC2P 2EH

Registrars and transfer office

Regis Securities
Balfour House, 390/398 High Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 1NQ

The Group's trading profit during the period derived principally from its services to the oil and gas industry.

The following table gives an approximate geographical breakdown of the Group's turnover from its principal activities for the six months ended 30th September, 1983:—

	United Kingdom and the rest of Europe	North and South America	Africa and the Middle East	The Far East and Australia	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Services to the oil and gas industry	29	22	11	15	77
Services to the minerals industry	6	3	3	4	16
Wireline logging and other activities	7	—	—	—	7
Total	42	25	14	19	100

Services to the oil and gas industry

Robertson Research has provided technical services in connection with the exploration for and development of hydrocarbons in over 80 countries during the past 10 years. It is, or has been, active in all sectors of the North Sea and in most other major oil exploration and production areas. The Group's clients include the major oil companies, a large number of independent oil companies, governments, government agencies and international development organisations.

The Group's policy is to provide an extensive range of services to its clients. These services encompass the various phases in petroleum exploration and development described elsewhere in this document, ranging from identification of exploration areas to field development. Services provided in the exploration phases range from regional geological and geophysical interpretation to the biostratigraphic and petroleum geochemical analysis of exploration well samples, sedimentology and conventional core analysis. Services in the development phases include reservoir analysis and conventional and special core analysis. In response to the increase in development drilling in the North Sea, the Group has recently established a new core handling and analysis facility in Aberdeen. Some of the techniques used in its services have been developed by Robertson Research in its laboratories.

Robertson Research undertakes major regional studies on a multi-client basis and these provide a significant proportion of turnover from petroleum services. Exploration studies generally provide a detailed analysis of a region's stratigraphy, the distribution and nature of the oil and gas source rocks and their relationship to known occurrences of oil and gas. Development studies examine the geological and engineering characteristics of known oil and gas reservoirs. In its multi-client reports, which are sometimes prepared jointly with other organisations, the Group draws on data provided by participating clients and the non-confidential parts of the Group's data bank. In general, reports are undertaken only when the major part of their budgeted costs of production have been covered by purchase commitments from clients.



Robertson Research plc

The Group prepares independent evaluations of potential oil and gas fields. These are used, for example, by companies before committing substantial expenditure on exploration or development and by governments before opening an area for bidding or in assessing proposed production programmes. In certain types of petroleum evaluation requiring specialist skills in reservoir engineering, economic evaluation and seismic geophysical exploration, Robertson Research works with ERC and others to complement its own expertise.

As part of its services the Group organises technical courses and provides specialist training for clients' personnel.

Services to the minerals industry

Over the past 10 years, Robertson Research has provided technical services for many aspects of the exploration for and the assessment and development of mineral resources in over 50 countries. The Group is engaged to identify exploration prospects, undertake, manage or assist in exploration work, assess the extent and quality of mineral reserves, determine the techniques required to exploit commercially any reserves discovered and assess the technical and economic feasibility of development. The Group's public sector clients include international and government development agencies and state and local governments, and its private sector clients range from small to multi-national companies.

The Group's services include geology, geophysical surveys and interpretation, mining engineering, mineral processing and supporting laboratory services for a broad range of minerals including energy resources, industrial raw materials and base and precious metals. Projects on which the Group is currently engaged include the exploration for and development of coal in Africa, Australasia and South America, heavy mineral sands in Egypt, copper, lead and zinc in Canada and gold in Sudan and Australia. Robertson Research was recently commissioned to produce a series of geological and mineral deposit maps of 22 countries from the Atlantic coast of North Africa to the Arabian Peninsula.

Robertson Research conducts hydrogeological and water resource studies for exploration and production in both developed and developing countries. The Group's environmental services of soil and water analysis are used by local governments and development agencies to identify and control potential hazards in areas planned for development. The Group's minerals division also has an oil and coolant analysis facility for assessing engine wear and pinpointing areas of potential future mechanical breakdown.

Wireline logging and other activities

The Group designs and manufactures wireline logging systems and provides wireline logging services. Robertson Research's involvement in wireline logging had its beginnings in water exploration programmes but has now expanded into coal and other minerals. In order to establish itself in this high technology field Robertson Research has made a significant commitment to research and development.

The Group has two wireline logging systems which are of advanced design. The larger digital system is generally made available to clients only on a service basis, whereas the smaller analog system is also available for sale. The sondes developed by Robertson Research are primarily for coal, mineral and water exploration, but equipment is being developed to expand its services into shallow on-shore oil and gas exploration.

Following a successful tender for a major wireline logging contract with the National Coal Board (Opencast Executive) in August 1982, the Group is currently the largest non-hydrocarbon wireline logging contractor operating in the United Kingdom. The Group's existing wireline logging activities are being developed into overseas markets and it is currently engaged on contracts in Africa and the Philippines.

The Group's cartographic department has produced its own high quality reports and maps for several years. This has the advantages of strict security, timeliness and the maintenance of high standards. As well as meeting the Group's own requirements, the cartographic department designs and produces reports and promotional literature for other companies.

Operations

Areas of operation

The Group's headquarters and main technical facilities are in Llandudno, North Wales. Work for petroleum and minerals clients in Europe and the Middle East, and wireline logging work, is carried out through the Group's operating subsidiaries in the United Kingdom. Outside Europe and the Middle East, assignments are carried out largely by the Group's operating subsidiaries in the United States, Canada, Singapore (which also has a representative office in Indonesia) and Australia. For operational reasons, however, some overseas work is handled from the United Kingdom and technical support is provided, where appropriate, from the Group's facilities in Llandudno. Details of the Group's operating subsidiaries are set out in Appendix IV.

The Group's offices in North Wales, Houston and Singapore undertake a full range of laboratory and other supporting technical work for the Group's petroleum services and, together with the offices in Calgary and Sydney, are involved from time to time in the preparation of multi-client studies. Services to the minerals industry are provided principally through the Group's United Kingdom headquarters and the Australian and Canadian subsidiaries. Much of the work for minerals and wireline logging services, however, is carried out directly in the field at the exploration or development site.

Technical development

Development of the Group's technical capabilities takes place in its laboratories and workshops which also carry out specifically commissioned development projects for clients. The Group's geophysical operations in the United Kingdom and Australia have a continuing programme of software development for the interpretation of non-seismic geophysical data obtained by gravitational, magnetic, electric and electro-magnetic techniques.

Marketing

Marketing of the Group's services and the identification of opportunities for initiating multi-client projects is undertaken by directors and other members of senior management as well as by the Group's scientists. Much of the Group's business is attracted by its reputation in the industry and existing clients provide a considerable source of new projects. Some projects are obtained through competitive tendering.

Clients

The Group undertakes a variety of assignments for clients throughout the world. In recent years the increased range of services provided by Robertson Research has widened its customer base and no single client currently accounts for a significant part of its turnover. The Group is increasingly undertaking larger assignments, particularly projects in developing countries funded by government agencies, financial institutions and international development organisations.

Competitors

The Group has a number of competitors in its various sectors of activity, including universities, government departments, private laboratories, geological consulting groups and companies specialising in wireline logging. The directors believe, however, that few of Robertson Research's competitors in the United Kingdom or overseas can match the range of services it can offer from its own resources.

Administration

Assignments vary in their scale and type from a few hours' work to projects lasting several years, and from the involvement of a single member of the professional staff to multi-disciplinary teams and the deployment of significant amounts of equipment and resources. The Group is organised into specialist units within each main operating division, which gives it the flexibility to deal with a wide variety of projects. Multi-disciplinary projects are controlled by a project manager who co-ordinates the work of the specialist units and arranges for the provision of any other resources required.

The Group frequently raises bid bonds, bank guarantees and performance bonds as required for its assignments. Cover is obtained for certain overseas assignments from the Export Credits Guarantee Department. Professional indemnity and public liability cover is maintained at a level which the directors consider appropriate having regard to the nature of the Group's business. The Group's work includes the handling of potentially hazardous substances and it maintains health and safety procedures in order to protect employees and the public.

Directors, management and staff

The Company's board of directors is responsible for the overall control of the Group and for defining its policies. Financial control is exercised through a Finance Committee which reports on a regular basis to the board. RRI is the principal United Kingdom operating company of the Group and its board is responsible for the implementation of Group policy. The Company's directors are represented on the boards of all the overseas subsidiaries. The Company's directors and other senior executives of the Group, and their responsibilities, are set out below:

Directors

Dr. Robert H. Cummings, OBE, aged 60, has been Chairman of the Company since April 1983. He worked for five years with Shell and from 1948 to 1961 held various academic positions including that of senior tutor in geology at the University of Glasgow. He was a founder member of Robertson Research and became its first Managing Director. He has held several Council positions in the CBI and is a member of the Royal Commission for Environmental Pollution and of the House of Commons All Party Committee for Energy.

Dr. W. Francis Robertson, aged 64, is Honorary President of the Company and is a director of Bank of Scotland. He was Chairman of the Company from January 1979 to March 1983. He was awarded an honorary LL.D. by the University of Strathclyde in 1967.

Dr. William W. McB. Brown, aged 48, is the Group Chief Executive and Chairman of RRI. He was a founder of the Group's business, having previously worked for Shell. He has an Honours BSc degree from the University of Glasgow and a PhD from the University of Wales.

Dr. H. Roy Bichan, aged 42, is Deputy Group Chief Executive and Managing Director of RRI. He joined Robertson Research in 1968 following completion of a doctorate degree in geology and a research fellowship at the University of Leeds. He is the author of several scientific papers and is currently a member of the Council and a Vice President of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy. Dr. Bichan is non-executive Chairman of Greenwich.

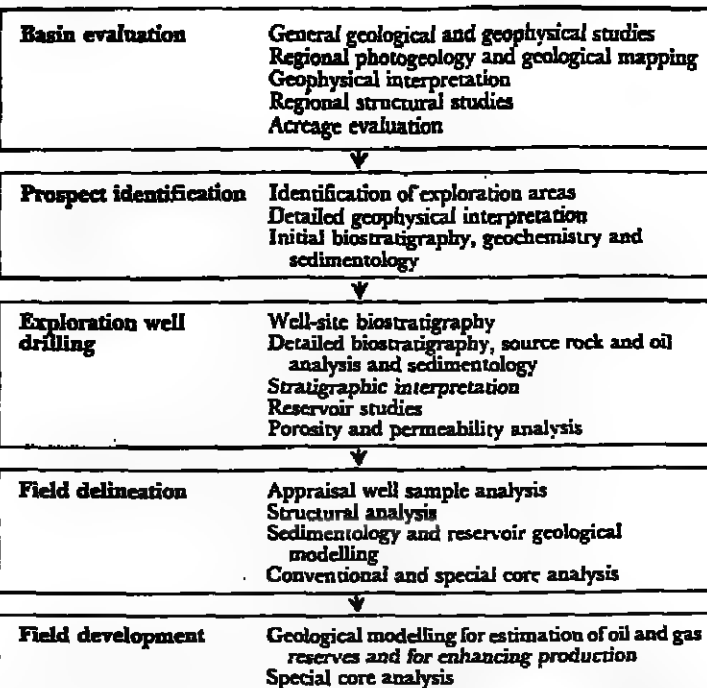
Mr. John T. Clarke, aged 37, joined the Group in 1982 and is responsible for corporate finance. He is a non-executive director of Greenwich and of New Court Natural Resources PLC and a non-executive member of the Committee of Management of Family Assurance Society.

Mr. David Gaunt, aged 63, is Chairman of R. Gaunt and Sons (Holdings) Limited, a Yorkshire-based textile company. He was appointed a non-executive director in 1975.

Mr. Alexander Taylor, aged 50, is Executive Vice President of SNC. He was appointed a non-executive director in 1981.

Techniques used in finding and extracting hydrocarbons

As the scientific techniques and technical support services used in the exploration for and development of natural resources such as petroleum and other minerals have become more specialised, it has become increasingly cost effective for exploration and development organisations to rely on outside specialist expertise. Robertson Research provides geological and related technical services to the petroleum and minerals industries, its services in connection with hydrocarbons (oil and gas) accounting for the largest part of the Group's activities. The diagram below shows various phases in the identification and development of an oilfield and some of the services that Robertson Research provides in respect of each phase.



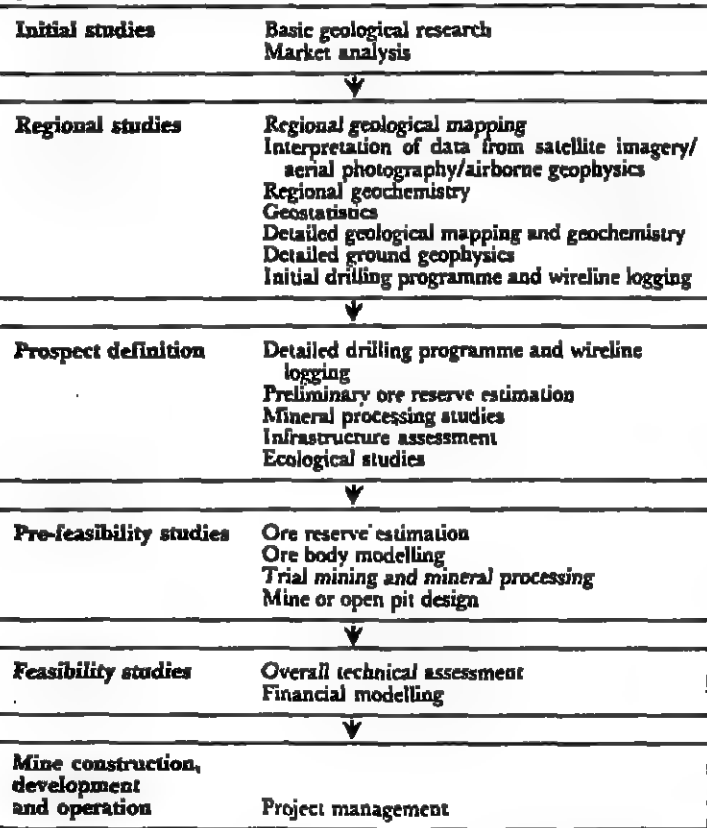
Geophysical data is obtained on rock structures principally through seismic surveys which involve the transmission of acoustic shock waves into rock formations and the detection and measurement of reflected signals. Biostratigraphy is the analysis of microfossils extracted from rock samples in order to determine the geological age of rocks and the conditions under which they were deposited. The nature and maturity of the organic matter found in rocks is analysed by means of petroleum geochemistry in order to determine their potential to generate hydrocarbons. Sedimentology involves the study of the sedimentary rock layers of the earth's crust, particularly those making up porous or fractured reservoirs which can contain hydrocarbons. Petroleum geologists and geophysicists interpret this information to evaluate the likelihood of a particular basin containing hydrocarbons in commercial quantities and also its potential for drillable prospects.

Exploration wells are drilled to determine whether prospects contain hydrocarbons. If petroleum is discovered, appraisal wells are drilled in order to establish the size and characteristics of the field and whether its economic development is feasible.

The porosity of reservoir rocks is a measure of their capacity to contain fluids. A rock's permeability is a measure of its capacity to allow hydrocarbons and other fluids to pass through it. Conventional core analysis involves the laboratory measurement of the porosity and permeability of reservoir rock samples and the fluids contained in them. Special core analysis is a technique used to recreate the conditions of pressure, temperature and fluid content experienced within a reservoir in order to make a realistic assessment of fluid flow. Reservoir geology involves the description and mapping of reservoir rocks and the construction of a geological model for use in field development and the calculation of oil and gas reserves. Reservoir engineering encompasses the techniques used to enhance the recovery of hydrocarbons from a particular reservoir.

Techniques used in finding and extracting other minerals

Robertson Research provides a wide range of services in relation to the exploration for and development of minerals, including energy resources (such as coal), industrial raw materials (such as limestone and heavy mineral sands), base metals (such as copper, lead and zinc) and precious metals (such as gold). The diagram below illustrates some of the principal phases associated with exploration leading to the establishment of a mine, together with some of the services that Robertson Research provides in respect of each phase.



Wireline logging

Wireline logging is a technique for obtaining continuous geological and related data by means of electro-mechanical devices, known as sondes, lowered into boreholes by cable. The data is transmitted through the cable and recorded by computerised equipment at the surface. The technique complements or replaces the obtaining of rock core samples from the borehole for laboratory testing.

Wireline logging is used in both the petroleum and, increasingly, the minerals industries particularly in coal exploration. Information on strata properties determined from wireline logging includes data on density, porosity, rock type, clay content, coal seam thickness or quality and the potential and likely volumes of fluid flow.

Joint company secretaries

Mr. Alexander M. Jaffé, aged 38, is Company Treasurer and Joint Secretary. He is a Chartered Accountant and joined Robertson Research in 1975.

Mr. Royce J. Clint, aged 50, is Joint Secretary of the Company and a director of RRI. He joined the Group in 1971.

Other senior executives

Mr. Ronald D. Butler, aged 55, joined the Group in 1971. He is Managing Director of Robertson Research (Australia) Pty. Limited.

Dr. Graham Dolby, aged 40, joined the Group in 1977. He is a director and General Manager of Robertson Research Canada Limited.

Mr. Roger W. Goldsmith, aged 51, joined the Group in 1973. He is a director of RRI and Technical Director of petroleum services.

Mr. John Hughes, aged 44, joined the Group in 1978. He is a Chartered Accountant and is Financial Controller of RRI.

Dr. Peter Ibbotson, aged 49, joined the Group in 1967. He is a director of RRI and Managing Director of minerals operations.

Mr. Robert W. L. Oldroyd, aged 46, joined the Group in 1962. He is a director of RRI, with particular responsibility for petroleum business development and multi-client reports.

Dr. Pieter J. Raaijmakers, aged 33, joined the Group in 1971. He is Managing Director of Robertson Research (Singapore) Pte. Limited.

Dr. Michael E. Scrutton, aged 38, joined the Group in 1969. He is Managing Director of Robertson Research (U.S.) Inc.

Dr. E. Brian Wolfenden, aged 51, joined the Group in 1965. He is a director of RRI and Managing Director of petroleum services.

Dr. Anthony J. Wright, aged 48, joined the Group in 1966. He is a director of RRI and Managing Director of wireline logging activities.

Employees

The Group has over 650 staff, of whom over 280 are professionally qualified, including 32 with doctorate degrees. A further 200 are skilled in a technical discipline. Of the total staff approximately 450 are involved in work for the petroleum industry. Robertson Research has a policy of training staff of all grades through a variety of internal and external courses in order to help them develop the more specialised skills required by the Group.

A Staff Council, comprising two directors and the personnel manager of RRI and 12 members of staff, meets monthly and is the main channel of staff communications for United Kingdom employees. Close contact is also maintained with the trade union of which some United Kingdom employees are members. There have not been any industrial disputes within the Group since it was founded and labour relations are good.

The Group operates a contributory pension and life assurance plan and a permanent health insurance plan for eligible United Kingdom employees and a separate non-contributory executive pension scheme for certain senior executives. Separate schemes are operated for overseas employees. A profit-related bonus scheme is operated for the employees of the United Kingdom subsidiaries with more than 12 months' service. The aggregate annual payment under the scheme amounts to 10 per cent. of the consolidated profit before tax of the United Kingdom operating companies after taking account of the allocation under the scheme. Employees in overseas locations participate in benefit schemes appropriate to local circumstances.

The Group has a policy of encouraging the ownership of the Company's shares among management and employees and approximately 30 per cent. of the Ordinary Shares in issue after the Offer for Sale will be held by a total of approximately 90 employees (including directors) before taking into account any shares which they may purchase under the Offer for Sale. The directors propose to consider in due course the introduction of an executive share option scheme.

Financial information

Reasons for the issue and proceeds

The directors believe that the listing of the Company's shares on The Stock Exchange and the issue will assist the development of the Group's business and will facilitate the funding of its growth and, where appropriate, the making of acquisitions.

Of the 2,564,365 Ordinary Shares now being offered for sale, 1,000,000 shares are new Ordinary Shares being issued for cash and 1,564,365 shares are being made available as to 1,284,761 shares by SNC and as to the balance by certain other shareholders. The net proceeds of the issue of new shares, after deduction of the expenses of the Offer for Sale, are estimated at £1,068,000.

Net assets

The consolidated net tangible assets of Robertson Research at 30th September, 1983, as shown in paragraph D of the accountants' report in Appendix I, amounted to £405,000. Taking into account the net proceeds of the issue of the new shares, net tangible assets as at that date would be £5,473,000 representing 52.8p per Ordinary Share on the enlarged Ordinary Share capital. This takes no account of the surplus over book value of the current market value of the Group's listed investments and freehold properties.

Working capital

The directors are of the opinion that, having regard to available bank facilities, cash resources and the net proceeds of the issue of the new shares, Robertson Research will have sufficient working capital for its present requirements.

Trading record

The following table, based on the accountants' report in Appendix I, summarises the results of the Group for the five years ended 31st March, 1983 and the six months ended 30th September, 1983.

	Year ended 31st March					Six months ended 30th September
	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1983
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Turnover	4,139	5,988	8,632	12,635	14,861	7,114
Profit before taxation	338	507	879	688	997	832

Turnover increased in each of the five years ended 31st March, 1983 and by approximately 260 per cent. during this period. This growth primarily reflected increased demand for the Group's services to the oil and gas industries and, in particular, services to oil companies operating in the North Sea.

Profit before taxation for the year ended 31st March, 1981 benefited from buoyant market conditions in the United States and Australia. During the following two years ended 31st March, 1983 turnover and profits from operations in the United Kingdom and the Far East continued to grow. However, Group profits during this period were affected by costs associated with the development of the Group's wireline logging business and by the performance of the North American and Australian subsidiaries, which suffered from a downturn in petroleum and minerals exploration and development.

The period since 1st April, 1983 has seen continuing progress in oil and gas operations in the United Kingdom and much improved performances by the North American and Australian subsidiaries, partially offset by further development costs of the Group's wireline logging operations.

Profit forecast

The directors forecast that, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances and on the bases and assumptions set out in Appendix II, the profit of the Group before taxation for the year ending 31st March, 1984 will not be less than £1.7 million.

After deducting an estimated tax charge of 40 per cent., earnings would amount to £1.02 million, earnings per share would be 9.1p and the price/earnings multiple at the Offer for Sale price would be 17.7 times. After deducting a notional full tax charge of 52 per cent., earnings would amount to £816,000, earnings per share would amount to 7.2p and the price/earnings multiple would be 22.2 times. These tax charges take no account of the proposed taxation changes announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget statement on 13th March, 1984. The figures for earnings per share have been calculated on the basis of 11,258,200 shares, being the weighted average number of shares in issue for the year ending 31st March, 1984 (after taking into account the adjustments set out in paragraph D(viii) of the accountants' report).

Dividends

The directors have resolved to pay (subject to the completion of the Offer for Sale) by 31st March, 1984 a special dividend equivalent to 1p per Ordinary Share in respect of the year ending on that date to shareholders on the register on 22nd February, 1984, but do not intend to propose or pay further dividends in respect of that year.

If the Company had been a listed company for the whole of the year ending 31st March, 1984 and assuming profits before taxation of £1.7 million, the directors would have expected to recommend net dividends totalling 3p per Ordinary Share in respect of that year (equivalent to 4.3p inclusive of tax credit). A total dividend of 4.3p per Ordinary Share (inclusive of tax credit) would represent a gross yield of 2.68 per cent. on the Offer for Sale price and its net cost would be covered 3.0 times by prospective earnings of £1.02 million for the year ending 31st March, 1984.

The directors intend in future years to pay an interim dividend in February and a final dividend in September. It is expected that the first dividend payable after the date of the Offer for Sale would be an interim dividend in respect of the year ending 31st March, 1985 which would be payable in February 1985.

The future

The directors of Robertson Research believe that the Group's reputation has been built on the twin foundations of the excellence of its work and its integrity as an independent organisation. The Group has grown by combining many skills to meet its clients' requirements and by responding quickly and flexibly to changing opportunities in its areas of activity. The directors believe that these qualities equip the Group for continued growth in the future.

Petroleum services will continue to provide the major part of Robertson Research's turnover and profits. Activities in the North Sea are likely to benefit from an increasing demand for petroleum services in post-exploration phases of oil and gas field operations, such as reservoir geology, conventional and special core analysis and other techniques associated with secondary recovery. The geographical expansion of the Group's petroleum services is expected to include areas where existing exploration and development activity is likely to increase, such as East and West Africa and the Americas, and new areas such as off-shore China. The directors are confident of continued opportunities and demand for multi-client reports.

The Group intends to extend its coal and mineral wireline logging activities to shallow on-shore petroleum exploration, particularly gas exploration in Europe. Demand for the Group's mineral services is to some extent influenced by the level of world economic activity and changes in the prices of coal, industrial minerals and base and precious metals. The prospects for economic recovery are more encouraging now than they have been in several years and the directors expect Robertson Research to benefit from any upturn in activity.

The directors are confident that Robertson Research has the breadth of experience, skills, technical capabilities and financial resources to continue its profitable growth.

Appendix I

Accountants' report

The following is a copy of a report to the directors of the Company and the directors of S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. made by the joint auditors and reporting accountants:

Ernst & Whinney,
Becket House,
1 Lambeth Palace Road,
London SE1 7ET

The Directors,
Robertson Research plc

The Directors,
S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

A Introduction

We have examined the audited accounts of Robertson Research plc ("the Company") and its subsidiaries (together "the Group") for the five years ended 31st March, 1983 and for the six months ended 30th September, 1983. The accounts for the four years ended 31st March, 1981 were audited by Aston, Parkinson & Gadd and the accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1982 and for the six months ended 30th September, 1983 were audited jointly by Ernst & Whinney and Aston, Parkinson & Gadd.

The following transactions have been reflected in the summarised financial information set out below as if they had taken place prior to 1st April, 1978:

(i) Robertson Research Engineering Services Limited ("RRES") commenced trading as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company on 1st April, 1978. On 9th January, 1979, the Welsh Development Agency ("WDA") acquired 50 per cent. of the issued share capital of RRES but, as from 21st December, 1982, the Company acquired all of these shares and RRES became a 75 per cent. subsidiary of the Company. On 12th March, 1984, the Company entered into an agreement with the WDA, conditional upon the submission by the Council of the Stock Exchange of the Ordinary shares of the Company to the Official List, whereby the Company will acquire the remaining part of the issued share capital of RRES not already owned by the Company for a consideration satisfied by the issue, credited as fully paid, of 65,000 Ordinary shares of 10p each.

(ii) On 19th December, 1983, the Company acquired that part of the issued share capital of Robertson Research (U.S.) Inc. ("RRI(US)") and Robertson Research Canada Limited ("RRI Canada") respectively not already owned by the Company at that date for an aggregate consideration of £227,250 satisfied by the issue, credited as fully paid, of 225,000 Ordinary shares of 5p each.

The summarised financial information set out below under the heading "Historical cost accounts" has been derived from the audited accounts of the Group, adjusted as we consider appropriate and on the basis that the Group had been as presently constituted throughout the period. In our opinion this information gives, on the basis of the historical cost convention modified by the revaluation of certain freehold properties and items of equipment, a true and fair view of the profits and losses and application of funds of the Group for the five years ended 31st March, 1983 and the six months ended 30th September, 1983 and of the state of affairs of the Company and of the Group as at 30th September, 1983.

The summarised financial information set out below under the heading "Current cost accounts" has been derived from the audited supplementary current cost accounts of the Group for the two years ended 31st March, 1983, adjusted as we consider appropriate and on the basis that the Group had been as presently constituted throughout those two years. In our opinion this information has been properly prepared in accordance with the policies and methods set out in the notes to give the information required by Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No. 16.

No audited accounts have been prepared for the Group for any period subsequent to 30th September, 1983.

Robertson Research plc

Historical cost accounts

A Accounting policies

The significant accounting policies of the Group, which have been consistently applied in arriving at the financial information set out in this section of the report, are as follows:

(i) Basis of accounting

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets and items of equipment.

(ii) Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts include the accounts of the Company and each of its subsidiaries made up to 31st March each year and to 30th September for the six months ended 30th September, 1983, after eliminating intra Group trading.

(iii) Turnover

Turnover comprises the invoiced value of goods and services supplied by the Group, exclusive of value added tax.

(iv) Associated companies

The Group's share of profits of its associated companies is included in the consolidated profit and loss account and its share of post acquisition reserves is included in the consolidated balance sheet.

(v) Depreciation

Freehold properties are maintained, as a matter of Group policy, by a programme of repair and refurbishment such that the residual value of the properties are at least equal to their book values. Having regard to this it is the opinion of the directors that depreciation of the properties as required by standard accounting practice would not be material. Depreciation is provided on other tangible assets mainly on the straight line basis, having regard to their estimated useful lives and expected residual values, at the following rates per annum:

Leasehold improvements	5-40 per cent.
Equipment	10-35 per cent.
Furniture	5-10 per cent.
Motor vehicles	20-25 per cent.

(vi) Stocks and work in progress

Stocks and work in progress are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for any obsolescence or slow moving items.

(vii) Long term contracts

Profit on long term contracts is recognised by accruing profit appropriate to the stage reached on the contract if its outcome is foreseeable prior to completion. Full provision is made for any anticipated losses on contracts in hand.

(viii) Research and development

Expenditure on research and development is charged to the profit and loss account in the period in which it is incurred.

(ix) Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided on the liability method on short term timing differences and all other material timing differences which are not expected to continue in the future.

(x) Foreign currencies

In individual Group companies, transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction; monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated at the rate of exchange ruling on that date. All exchange differences thus arising are dealt with as part of the result for the period.

On consolidation, assets, liabilities and reserves of overseas subsidiary companies are translated at the rate of exchange at the balance sheet date. All translation adjustments arising on consolidation are included in reserves.

(xi) Government grants

Amounts receivable in respect of capital based grants are set off against the costs of relevant assets before depreciation.

(xii) Rebates

The Group contracts to give rebates to clients in connection with certain sales of multi-client reports. These rebates may be obtained only as a reduction of the purchase price for other multi-client reports and their contractual availability lapses after a determined period, usually about four years. The value of outstanding potential rebates is assessed at the end of each accounting period and an appropriate provision is made in the accounts in respect of such potential liabilities based on the Group's experience of their utilisation. The provision in the balance sheet is apportioned appropriately between current and deferred liabilities.

G Profit and loss accounts

The historical cost profit and loss accounts of the Group for the five years ended 31st March, 1983 and the six months ended 30th September, 1983 were as follows:-

	Note	1979 £000	1980 £000	1981 £000	1982 £000	1983 £000	Six months ended 30th September 1983 £000
Turnover	(i)	4,139	5,988	8,652	12,633	14,861	7,114
Cost of sales	(i)	3,803	5,483	7,774	11,073	13,921	6,319
Operating profit		336	505	878	663	940	795
Share of profits of associated companies		2	4	1	26	57	57
Profit before taxation		338	509	879	689	997	852
Taxation	(ii)	95	57	266	131	354	304
Profit after taxation		243	450	613	558	643	548
Extraordinary items	(iii)	—	—	47	23	—	70
Profit attributable to members		243	450	660	580	643	618
Dividends	(iv)	25	34	71	79	93	1
Retained profit		220	396	589	501	550	617
Earnings per share	(v)	2.4p	4.3p	5.4p	4.8p	5.7p	4.7p

Notes on the profit and loss accounts

(i) Cost of sales included:-

	Year ended 31st March					Six months ended 30th September
	1979 £000	1980 £000	1981 £000	1982 £000	1983 £000	1983 £000
Depreciation	117	148	256	361	508	527
Amortisation	21	26	39	50	67	51
Directors' emoluments	55	74	81	130	145	75
Net interest payable	79	135	153	219	265	107
Lending and hire charges	39	57	105	196	267	119
Gain on disposal of mineral interests	—	—	—	(144)	(175)	(166)

The gain on disposal of mineral interests represents the profit on the sale of those interests, in July 1981, to Greenwich Resources Inc. ("Greenwich") for a consideration of £38,000 together with a maximum of 400,000 common shares without par value in Greenwich ("Greenwich shares") which were to be issued to the Group over three years, subject to the approval of the Vancouver Stock Exchange. The shares were issued as follows:-

	Number of shares	Market value on date issued
Date received		
Year ended 31st March, 1982	130,000	57
Year ended 31st March, 1983	130,000	152
Six months ended 30th September, 1983	140,000	245
	400,000	455

Greenwich shares are listed on The Toronto and Vancouver Stock Exchanges and are traded in Canadian dollars. The gain on disposal set out above reflects the difference between the book amount and the sum of the cash consideration, the market value of the shares issued on the date received and the market value of the shares still to be issued as recalculated at the end of each relevant accounting period and translated at the exchange rate appropriate at the balance sheet date.

(ii) The charge for taxation, which was based on the profits for the period, comprised:-

	Year ended 31st March					Six months ended 30th September
	1979 £000	1980 £000	1981 £000	1982 £000	1983 £000	1983 £000
U.K. corporation tax at 52 per cent.	10	(34)	71	151	237	247
Less: relief for overseas taxation	—	—	—	—	50	2
Overseas taxation	10	(34)	71	151	187	245
Associated companies	85	81	195	16	9	14
	95	57	266	151	354	304

The charge for U.K. corporation tax for each financial period has been reduced by:-

	Year ended 31st March					Six months ended 30th September
	1979 £000	1980 £000	1981 £000	1982 £000	1983 £000	1983 £000
Capital allowances	76	217	226	196	220	(28)
Stock appreciation relief	(4)	6	3	6	6	4
	72	223	229	202	226	(24)

The charge for taxation has not been adjusted in the years ended 31st March, 1979 to 1983 to reflect the additional relief for the losses of RRES which would have been available if it had been a wholly owned subsidiary throughout the period.

(iii) The extraordinary items represented:-

	Year ended 31st March					Six months ended 30th September
	1979 £000	1980 £000	1981 £000	1982 £000	1983 £000	1983 £000
Profit on disposal of premises	—	—	47	—	—	70
Profit on sale of investments	—	—	—	23	—	70
	—	—	47	23	—	70

In the year ended 31st March, 1982, the Group sold all of its shares in an unlisted United States company and in the six months ended 30th September, 1983 the Group sold part of its shareholding in a listed Australian company.

(iv) Dividends during the period were as follows:-

	Year ended 31st March					Six months ended 30th September
	1979 £000	1980 £000	1981 £000	1982 £000	1983 £000	1983 £000
Preference	3	3	3	3	4	—
Ordinary	20	51	68	85	102	—
Deferred	—	—	—	—	—	—
Less amounts waived	23	54	71	88	106	—
	23	54	71	9	13	—
	23	54	71	79	93	—

At 30th September, 1983 dividends proposed in respect of the Participating Convertible Cumulative Preference shares (£1,000) and the Ordinary shares (£102,000) for the year ended 31st March, 1983 had not been approved or paid.

(v) The earnings per share for the five years ended 31st March, 1983 and the six months ended 30th September, 1983 are based on the profit after taxation and before extraordinary items in each period and the weighted average number of shares in issue as follows:-

	Year ended 31st March					Six months ended 30th September
	1979 £000	1980 £000	1981 £000	1982 £000	1983 £000	1983 £000
Profit after taxation	243	450	613	557	643	548
Weighted average number of ordinary shares of 10p in issue	10,005,000	10,541,232	11,250,000	11,250,000	11,250,000	11,250,000

The weighted average number of Ordinary shares in issue has been adjusted from the beginning of the period to reflect the transactions set out in paragraph D(viii) below. No account has been taken of the new Ordinary shares of 10p each to be subscribed and offered for sale to the public, or the net proceeds therefrom.

D Balance sheets

The historical cost balance sheets of the Company and the Group as at 30th September, 1983 were as follows:-

	Company £000	Note	Group £000
Fixed assets			
—Tangible assets	1,655	(i)	4,684
—Interests in subsidiaries	101	(ii)	767
—Investments	1,756	(iii)	5,411
Current assets			
—Stocks and work in progress	—		826
—Debtors	—		4,219
—Bank balances	—		538
Current liabilities			
—Creditors	22	(iv)	2,786
—Hire purchase liabilities	12		107
—Taxation	103		153
—Proposed dividends	—		796
—Bank overdrafts	137	(v)	6,344
Net current assets (liabilities)	(136)		1,239
Total assets less current liabilities	1,520		6,560
Loan capital	—	(vi)	750
Deferred liabilities	—	(vii)	495
Total assets less liabilities	1,520		5,405
Called up share capital	1,125	(viii)	1,125
Reserves	495	(ix)	4,280
	1,520		5,405

Notes on the balance sheets

(i) Tangible assets of the Group comprised:-

	Cost or valuation	Depreciation	Net book amount
Freehold properties	1,045	—	1,045
Leasehold improvements	219	174	84
Equipment and furniture	4,333	1,483	2,850
Motor vehicles	196	88	108
	6,393	1,751	4,642

The freehold properties included properties which were independently valued at £353,000 on 17th April, 1979, on an open market basis with vacant possession. Subsequent additions to freehold properties are shown above at their aggregate cost of £292,000.

Certain items included in equipment and furniture have been revalued as follows:-

Date of valuation	Value	Value at date of revaluation	Net book amount
1st April, 1978	Independent professional valuation	Existing sum	516
31st March, 1980	Independent professional valuation	Depreciated replacement cost	131
31st March, 1983	Independent professional valuation	Depreciated replacement cost	226
			673

"These items had previously been written off on purchase."

(ii) Interests in subsidiaries comprised:-

	Company £000	Group £000
Shares at cost	354	354
Advances and amounts owing by subsidiaries to the Company on current account	1,301	1,655

(iii) Investments comprised:-

	Company £000	Group £000
Lined on recognised overseas stock exchanges (Group market value £3,254,000)	73	616
Associated companies	26	46
—Shares at cost	—	105
—Share of post acquisition reserves	101	767

The listed investments comprised:-

	Company £000	Group £000
Shares in Greenwich	73	616
Other	12	—
	73	616

(iv) The Group's shares in Greenwich have been acquired as follows:-

	Number of shares	Book amount
Part of consideration for sale of mineral interests (paragraph C (i))	400,000	435
Extraordinary items (see below)	30,000	1
Shares still held in escrow (see below)	128,000	1
Consideration for sale on 27th April, 1983 of 364,687 ordinary shares in Minex Developments F.L.C. ("Minex")	1,458,748	168
	2,006,748	604

In July 1981, the Group acquired from a director of Greenwich through R.R. Canada 150,000 Greenwich shares, which were then held in escrow, for a consideration of £31,500 of which 30,000 were released from escrow prior to 30th September, 1983. The remaining 120,000 shares were then still held in escrow and could not be traded on The Toronto or Vancouver Stock Exchanges until they were released. In December 1983, a further 37,500 shares were released, leaving 82,500 shares still held in escrow.

The shares acquired as consideration for the sale of the mineral interests are included at the market value of the shares on the dates when they were issued. The book amount of the shares acquired as consideration for the sale of the ordinary shares in Minex represents the original cost to the Group of those shares.

As an additional part of the consideration for the sale of its Minex shares to Greenwich, the Group received 72,957 share warrants of Greenwich. The warrants carry the right, exercisable until 26th April, 1984, to purchase one Greenwich share at a price of £28.00 per share for every two warrants held.

At 30th September, 1983, the Group's shares and warrants in Greenwich, other than those then held in escrow, had an aggregate market value of £3,156,000.

(v) The other listed investments had a market value at 30th September, 1983 of £38,000.

(vi) Group creditors included £212,000 in respect of the current portion of the provision for potential rebates (paragraph B (iii)) and £77,000 in respect of the issued debenture stock referred to in sub-paragraph (vii) below.

(vii) Bank overdrafts amounting to £609,000 were secured.

(viii) Loan capital comprised:-

	Group £000
15 per cent. debenture secured on the assets of a subsidiary repayable in ten equal half yearly instalments commencing 1st September, 1985	250
Secured term loan repayable £150,000 on 31st July, 1985, £150,000 on 31st July, 1987 and £200,000 on 31st July, 1988	500
	750

(viii) Deferred liabilities comprised:-

	Group £000
Hire purchase creditors due after 30th September, 1984	228
Provision for potential rebates (paragraph B (iii))	212
Government grants	47
Others	8
	495

(viii) At 30th September, 1983 the authors: d and called up share capital of the Company comprised:-

	Authorised	Called up
Ordinary shares of 5p each	185,750	92,875
Participating Convertible Cumulative Preference shares of 5p each	6,000	3,000
Deferred shares of 5p each	250	125
	200,000	99,000

a) On 14th November, 1983, the authorised share capital of the Company was increased from £200,000 to £400,000 by the creation of 4,000,000 Ordinary shares of 5p each and on the same date 3,975,000 Ordinary shares of 5p each were issued, credited as fully paid by way of capitalisation of the sum of £178,750 standing to the credit of the share premium account of the Company, to the holders of Ordinary shares and/or Participating Convertible Cumulative Preference shares in accordance with their holdings.

b) On 19th December, 1983, 225,000 Ordinary shares of 5p each were issued, credited as fully paid, as satisfaction for the aggregate consideration of £227,250 for the acquisition, with effect from 1st October, 1983, by the Company of that part of the issued share capital of R.R.(US) and R.R. Canada respectively not already owned by the Company at that date.

c) During February, 1984, each of the 80,000 issued and fully paid Participating Convertible Cumulative Preference shares of 5p was converted into an Ordinary share of 5p.

d) On 12th March, 1984, each of the 40,000 unissued Participating Convertible Cumulative Preference shares of 5p was reclassified as an Ordinary share of 5p.

e) On 12th March, 1984, each of the Deferred shares of 5p was converted into an Ordinary share of 5p.

f) On 12th March, 1984, every two Ordinary shares of 5p each, including those converted and reclassified as shown in c), d) and e) above, were consolidated into one Ordinary share of 10p.

g) On 12th March, 1984, the authorised share capital of the Company was increased from £400,000 to £1,000,000 by the creation of an additional 12,000,000 Ordinary shares of 10p each.

h) On 12th March, 1984, conditional upon the Ordinary share capital of the Company being admitted to the Official List, 3,987,500 Ordinary shares of 10p each were issued, credited as fully paid, by way of capitalisation of the sum of £398,750 standing to the credit of the share premium account and partly by an amount of £398,257 standing to the credit of the profit and loss account.

i) Under an agreement dated 12th March, 1984, conditional upon the Ordinary share capital of the Company being admitted to the Official List, 65,000 Ordinary shares of 10p will be issued, credited as fully paid, as consideration for the acquisition by the Company of that part of the issued share capital of RRES not already owned by the Company at that date.

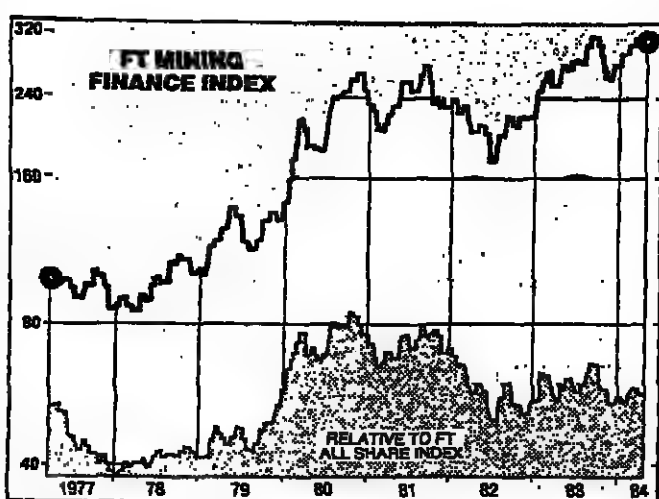
The share capital of the Company as at 30th September, 1983, adjusted to reflect the above transactions, comprised:-

	Authorised £	Called up £
Ordinary shares of 10p each	1,600,000	1,125,000
(ix) Reserves comprised—		
	Company £000	Group £000
Share premium	53	33
Capital reserve	—	141
Revaluation reserve	—	688
Translation reserve	—	314
Profit and loss account	462	3,164

ORDINARY SHARES

Mining groups ripe for recovery

Chris James



The rule is jam tomorrow and jam yesterday, but never jam today" - Lewis Carroll.

Mining multinationals and City analysts may all be forgiven for wondering if the OECD economic recovery will ever be reflected in the prices of the basic industrial metals. With some metals testing 50-year lows in real terms, is the Club of Rome discredited for ever?

During 1983, it was those metals associated with the consumer durable sector, principally aluminium and zinc used in the automobile and construction industries, which responded to increased demand. Metals closely allied to capital investment and the steel industry, namely copper and the steel additives, conspicuously failed to respond to the recovery while gold, a reflection of the health of the dollar, also languished. The year of the recovery was instead yet another year of corporate losses in the mining industry, more closures and conspicuous underperformance of gold and mining shares. Will 1984 be any different?

Considerable appeal in platinum

We have taken the view that 1984 will see a significant fall in the value of the dollar against currencies such as the Deutschmark, Swiss franc and the Japanese yen. We expect such a movement, when coupled with the political and economic uncertainty surrounding a US Presidential election, to bring about a strengthening of investment demand for gold during the year.

We have been recommending purchases of the leading high

quality South African gold producers such as Vaal Reef, Western Deep, and Driefontein because we feel that on market fundamentals, and on risk, they are cheaper than alternative gold investments in Australia and Canada. We continue to recommend Impala and Rustenburg, the world's principal platinum producers, since this alternative precious metal has considerable appeal on both investment and industrial grounds.

With a weaker US dollar, investment demand will also spill over into the industrial metals. However, the "bull case" for 1984 can be based more reliably on the long awaited upturn in capital spending. Overall, US capital expenditure declined by 4.4 per cent last year despite the 6.1 rise in GNP for the economy as a whole, but a recent survey by the Commerce Department suggests that a rise of 13.6 per cent is on the cards for this year. Recovery will still be slow, particularly in "smoke-stack" industries, so that demand for metals is not likely to outstrip supply, particularly in the longer term, though the supply-demand relationship is now much closer to a balance.

Despite current setbacks, the running in 1984 should again be made by aluminium and zinc.

With a number of mine closures in the United States this year, copper is now moving to a balance after three years of rising stocks.

There is still some uncertainty about the nickel market after the 13 per cent increase in demand last year. Stainless steel production is picking up well in the United States and Western Europe and we are confident that there is scope for a further increase in the nickel price later in the year. We remain enthusiastic about tin, where world prices are still below the Penang floor price, so distorting the physical market, and about lead where the medium to long term must still be depressing as the use of the metal as a petroleum additive decreases.

The best way for most British investors to play the world mining market is through Rio Tinto-Zinc - a multinational with a fine spread of income both by commodity and by country. Borax is now the principal profit earner for the group, but uranium, aluminium and iron ore have all been major sources of income in recent years.

The company also has a very strong presence in copper, lead, zinc, coal and oil and is increasingly involved in the UK construction industry. The attractions of RTZ lie in the

nature of its mining assets, all of which are in the high quality, low cost spectrum of world mining deposits. This has enabled the company to weather the recession in superb fashion and to report what should be record profits for 1983 when most mining majors were pursuing heavy and increasing losses. RTZ has only marginally outperformed the British market over the past 12 months and at 67p and on a P/E of only 9 for the current year, still looks cheap against the market as a whole.

Consolidated Gold Fields (Friday close, 609p) the other major UK mining house, is a very different company to RTZ and the majority of earnings at the net level are still derived from gold. Accordingly, its shares are used as a gold investment vehicle by those institutions unable or unwilling to invest directly in gold mines or in South Africa. There is certainly scope for an improvement in CGF's earnings as the world economies continue to grow but the sterling to the recovery is still considerably less than in the case with RTZ. Nevertheless, CGF certainly

Enviably portfolio of natural resources

merits inclusion in a mining investment portfolio as a gold play.

Hampton Gold Mining Areas (Friday close, 238p) has recently attracted considerable attention as a developing UK mining finance house - and with good reason. This relatively small company, which derived its income almost from nickel royalties from Western Mining until 10 years ago, has built up an enviable portfolio of natural resource assets. The shares are very highly rated in current earnings but the growth expected over the next 10 years from gold in the United States and in Australia, from coal and oil in the United States and in the UK and from its land bank of exploration, leases, should ensure that Hampton is one of the most exciting smaller diversified mining investments.

Summarising, 1984 should be the year of the long-heralded recovery in base metal prices. Unquestionably, current prices are unsustainable in real terms for much longer. However, unlike gem diamonds, mining investments are not forever; by all means buy for the recovery, but don't forget to take profits later, preferably when most informed commentators are again predicting a long term shortage of mineral assets in the ground.

The author is mining partner of brokers Scott, Giff, Hancock.

US NOTEBOOK

Defusing the inflationary time bomb

The financial markets have shown in the last month that they represent a powerful force in resisting the inflationary trend of Federal Reserve policy. They have also performed an important role in bolstering the dollar whose underlying strength has been undermined by an excessively easy monetary policy and a downright profligate fiscal policy.

It was not until the publication of the Federal Reserve's revised money numbers for the second half of 1983 that the financial markets woke up to the fact that another inflationary time bomb was ticking away. Once they woke up, however, their reaction has been decisive.

The Treasury long bond of 2006-2013 was worth \$102 1/2 in the last week of January. At the end of this week it was worth \$97 1/2. This drop of a full five points in the price has driven yield up from 11.7 to nearly 12.4 per cent. In the short end of the market, the 90-day Treasury bill yield has risen from 8.94 to 9.46 per cent.

This week for the first time in ages, Federal funds have been routinely at 10 per cent or above.

A rise in the prime rate to 11 1/2 per cent is widely expected. About the only issue that remains is which bank is going to be the first to stick its neck out in this election year.

Mortgage rates have bottomed and realtors are being pressed by potential buyers to settle house sales while current mortgage rates last.

How high will rates go? Informed expectation is that the price increase even the rest of 1984 will rise from the 1983 rate of under 4 per cent to 7 to 9 per cent.

Such an acceleration of inflation will require a rise of perhaps another 2 or 3 percentage points in the average interest rate levels if the financial markets are to ensure that "real" yields remain where they are.

Accordingly we may expect that, by this time in 1985, Long-term Treasury bonds will be yielding close to 15 per cent, that the prime rate will be about 14 per cent and that 90-day Treasury bills will be about 12 per cent.

Maxwell Newton

USM REVIEW

Southwest Resources nears \$5m deal

In the short space of 18 months, Mr Max Lewinsohn has rejuvenated the fortunes of Southwest Resources from a sleepy mineral exploration group into a fast-growing oil and gas production company. Southwest is expected this week to announce details of an acquisition of a number of prospective sites in the US. The total bill is likely to be about \$5m (\$3.4m), and should provide another significant boost to next year's production figures and prospects.

Last week, Southwest announced details of a successful find on one of its sites in Louisiana in which it has a 5 per cent working interest.

The find has so far produced a flow rate of about 3 million cu ft of gas and 89 barrels of oil a day. Southwest's total investment in the prospect is \$250,000, and could produce a return of more than \$5m over the next few years.

The group now has more than 40 oil and gas properties in the US, many of which come on stream this year, but maintains

month, Dorset, specializes in building glass fibre reinforced sonar domes, windrows and fairings for ships, and aircraft.

Beazer acquired Tod along with its acquisition of West-thick in 1982. At least one-third of Tod's sales are to the Ministry of Defence, but other big customers include British Aerospace, Plessey, Westland, Vespene, Vickers and the German group, Krupp. None of Tod's private customers accounts for more than 15 per cent of turnover.

Pre-tax profits over the past five years have grown from £136,000 to £375,000, and with an order book of more than £2m the company could make about £550,000 in the present year.

The broker, L. Messel will place 1.6 million shares in Tod (34 per cent of the equity) at about 120p a share valuing the entire company at more than £6m.

Another company which has announced plans to join the USM is Formdesign, the Birmingham-based printer of business forms and computer stationery. The broker, Abet E. Sharpe, is to place 25 per cent of the equity amounting to 625,000 shares at about 110p.

At this level, the company is valued at nearly £3m. Formdesign made pretax profits of £43,000 in 1979 on a turnover of £1.4m and this had grown £231,000 on sales of £3.2m for the nine months to December 31, 1983. The board is looking for pretax profits of £330,000 for the year to March putting shares on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 17p.

Michael Clark

Money Market Deposits for Companies and Private Investors

Average Rate Scheme offers

- Competitive interest rate
- Short notice repayment
- Quarterly interest
- Deposits £5,000 to £250,000

United Dominions Trust

Full details from: Treasurer's Department 5th Floor, Princes House, 10-15 Abchurch Lane London EC4A 3AH Tel: 01-538 4681

NATIONAL Girobank

National Girobank announces that with effect from 19th March 1984

Base Rate

Its base rate is reduced from 9% to 8 1/2% per annum.

Deposit Accounts

The rate of interest payable on deposit accounts is reduced from 6% per annum to 5 1/2% per annum.

10 Milk Street LONDON EC2V 8JH

Robertson Research plc

- The documents attached to the copies of this Offer for Sale delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration were the written consent referred to in sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) above, the statements of Ernst & Whinney and Arthur, Parkin & Gadd setting out the adjustments made in arriving at the figures contained in their joint report (set out herein) and giving the reasons therefor, copies of the application forms and copies of the material contracts referred to in paragraph 8 above.
- The minimum amount which, in the opinion of the directors, is to be received by the issue of the new shares included in this Offer for Sale in respect of any of the matters mentioned in paragraph 4 of Part I of the Fourth Schedule to the Companies Act 1948 is £500,000 in respect of working capital.
- Save as disclosed herein there has been no material change in the trading or financial position of the Group since 30th September, 1983 other than to the ordinary course of business.
- The financial information concerning the Company and its subsidiaries contained in this Offer for Sale does not amount to full individual accounts within the meaning of Section 11 of the Companies Act 1981. Full individual accounts relating to each financial period of the Company and each of its subsidiaries incorporated in Great Britain to which the financial information relates (for the periods ending on or prior to 31st March, 1983) have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The relevant auditors have made a report under Section 14 of the Companies Act 1967 in respect of each such set of accounts and each such report was an unqualified report within the meaning of Section 43 of the Companies Act 1967.
- S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. is registered in England no. 202589 and its registered office is at 30 Gresham Street, London EC2P 2EB.

Dated 15th March, 1984.

Copies of this Offer for Sale with Application Forms may be obtained from:-

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., 30 Gresham Street, London EC2P 2EB.

Grievson, Grant and Co., Leith House, 45-57 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7EH.

Bank of Scotland, 3rd Floor, 55 Old Broad Street, London EC2P 2HL.

and Bank of Scotland, Registrar Dept., 26a York Place, Edinburgh EH1 3EY.

and at the following branches of Bank of Scotland:-

London: 16/18 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AH

Manchester: 19/21 Spring Gardens, Manchester M2 1EB

Glasgow: 110 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5EJ

Bristol: P.O. Box No. 208, 29 Corn Street, Bristol BS99 7JG

Birmingham: 124 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3AU

Aberdeen: 53 Castle Street, Aberdeen AB9 8AJ

and at the Company's head office:-

Robertson Research plc, Ty'n-y-Coed, Llanrhos, Llandudno, Gwynedd, North Wales, LL30 1SA.

Procedure for application

Requirements for application

- Applications (other than special employee applications) must be made on the Application Form overleaf and must be for a minimum of 200 shares and thereafter for the following multiples of shares in multiples of 100 shares up to 1,000 shares, in multiples of 500 shares up to 5,000 shares, in multiples of 1,000 shares up to 10,000 shares and in multiples of 5,000 shares thereafter.
- Applications must be lodged with or posted to Bank of Scotland, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 267, 38 Threadneedle Street, London EC2P 2EH, so as to arrive in either case not later than 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 22nd March, 1984 (being the time of opening of the application list).
- Each application must be accompanied by a separate cheque or banker's draft drawn in sterling on a branch in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man of a bank which is either a member of the London or Scottish Clearing Houses or which has arranged for its cheques and banker's drafts to be cleared through the facilities provided for the members of those clearing houses (and which must bear the appropriate sorting code number in the top right hand corner), payable to "Bank of Scotland" and crossed "Not Negotiable", representing payment in full at the application price. Due completion and delivery of an Application Form accompanied by a cheque will constitute an undertaking that the cheque will be honoured on first presentation; attention is drawn to the declaration in the Application Form to that effect.
- The right is reserved to present all cheques and banker's drafts for payment and to retain Letters of Acceptance and surplus application moneys pending clearance of all applicants' cheques. The right is also reserved to reject any application in whole or in part and, in particular, multiple or repeated applications. Applications will be irrevocable until 29th March, 1984. Photostat copies of Application Forms will not be accepted.
- No person receiving a copy of this Offer for Sale or an Application Form in any territory other than the United Kingdom may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such form, unless in the relevant territory such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or such form could lawfully be used without contravention of any registration or other legal requirements. Any person outside the United Kingdom wishing to make an application hereunder should satisfy himself as to observance of the laws of any relevant territory, including obtaining any requisite governmental or other consents or observing any other requisite formalities, including the payment of any issue, transfer or other taxes requiring to be paid in such territory.

Basis of allocation

- S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. will have discretion in deciding the basis of allocation. In so deciding, S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. will have regard to the need to establish a satisfactory market in the shares, for which purpose a reasonable number of shareholders is required.

General

- Up to 10 per cent. of the Ordinary Shares being offered for sale are reserved in the first instance for applications from employees of the Company and its subsidiaries. Such applications must be made on the special pink Application Forms which are being made available to such employees. In the event of excess applications being received from such employees, the basis of allocation among them will be determined by the directors and S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. at their discretion.
- The Offer for Sale and the acceptance of applications is conditional on the whole of the Ordinary Share capital of the Company, issued and now being issued, being admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange not later than 28th March, 1984. Moneys collected in respect of applications will be returned if such condition is not satisfied and, in the meantime, will be retained by Bank of Scotland in a separate account. If any application is not accepted, or is accepted for fewer shares than the number applied for, the application moneys or the balance of the amount paid on application (as the case may be) will be returned by cheque through the post, in all cases without interest, at the risk of the applicant(s) concerned.

- The basis of allocation will be announced on or as soon as possible after 22nd March, 1984. Renounceable Letters of Acceptance are expected to be despatched by or on 28th March, 1984. Dealings are expected to commence on 29th March, 1984.

- The shares now being offered for sale will be registered free of stamp duty and registration fees in the names of applicants or persons in whose favour Letters of Acceptance have been renounced, provided that, in cases of renunciation, Letters of Acceptance (duly completed in accordance with the instructions contained therein) are lodged for registration not later than 28th April, 1984. Share certificates will be posted by 6th July, 1984.

Application Form

The Application List for the Ordinary Shares now offered for sale will open at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 22nd March, 1984 and may be closed at any time thereafter.

This Application Form, when completed, must be lodged with or posted to Bank of Scotland, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 267, 38 Threadneedle Street, London EC2P 2EH, together with a cheque or banker's draft representing payment in full at the application price, so as to be received not later than 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 22nd March, 1984. Photostat copies of Application Forms will not be accepted.

A separate cheque or banker's draft must accompany each Application Form. Cheques and banker's drafts, which must be drawn in sterling on a branch in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man of a bank which is either a member of the London or Scottish Clearing Houses or which has arranged for its cheques and banker's drafts to be cleared through the facilities provided for the members of those clearing houses and must bear the appropriate sorting code number in the top right hand corner, must be made payable to "Bank of Scotland" and crossed "Not Negotiable". No application will be considered unless these conditions are fulfilled. All cheques and banker's drafts are liable to be presented for payment on receipt.

Applicants are strongly advised to use first class post and to allow two days for delivery.

Robertson Research plc

Offer for Sale

by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

of 2,564,365 Ordinary Shares of 10p each

at 160p per share

payable in full on application

Number of shares for which application is made	Amount
£	

For office use only

1. Acceptance number	
2. Number of shares accepted	
3. Amount received	£
4. Amount payable	£
5. Amount returned	£
6. Cheque number	

Signature

Christian name(s) or forename(s) (in full)

Address (in full)

Surname and designation (Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title)

Signature

Christian name(s) or forename(s) (in full)

Address (in full)

Surname and designation (Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title)

Signature

Christian name(s) or forename(s) (in full)

Address (in full)

Surname and designation (Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title)

Any signature on behalf of a corporation should be that of a duly authorized official who should state his capacity.

If this form is signed under a Power of Attorney, such Power of Attorney or a duly certified copy thereof must accompany this form.

No receipt will be issued for the payment on application, but an acknowledgment will be forwarded through the post to the applicant, either by a fully paid renounceable Letter of Acceptance for all or part of the shares applied for or a cheque for any application moneys returnable, in each case at the risk of the applicant(s).

La creme de la creme

TEMPORARY SECRETARIES

We are currently working with several major companies who have a continuous need for first class temporaries. Therefore we wish to recruit additional people to join our very busy team of temps.

You will need minimum skills of 100/60, a professional approach and a flexible, willing attitude. In return we offer excellent rates (average £3.00 per hour) and the opportunity to work on some very interesting assignments in fields as diverse as T.V., P.R., Publishing and Banking.

If you possess these essential qualities and are prepared for hard work contact:

Ginny Ling and Karin Parnaby on 01-629 7262

Graduate Appointments Ltd

Commercial Manager

Parfums Laura Ashley

We are seeking a Commercial Manager to market our products worldwide. He/she should have relevant experience in marketing and the supply of perfume and beauty products.

The position will be Brussels based. Please send full C.V. to Bernard Ashley, 43, Rue Ducale, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium.

MEDIA SEC., W8

We offer a vacancy which is often pressurised but never dull to a fast, accurate, typist. You should have at least 2 years' experience and preferably W9 knowledge. So if you want involvement and variety, telephone Heather on 937 6908/938 1231. Salary according to experience.

WEST END SECRETARIES

Earning around £8,200 p.a.

Then we need you now to help our many special W1 clients:

American Exec, fast moving management consultancy needs excellent SEC with Olivetti 351 exp.

International Advertising Co. needs skilled Shorthand Sec for their Sales and Marketing Manager.

Plenty more like these!

DUKE STREET HOUSE
415-417 Oxford St.
(Opposite Selfridges)
London W1
Tel. 629 9863

KINGSWAY
Temporary staff consultants

TELEVISION SEC

£7,000

Opportunity for a smart, sophisticated SEC to assist Senior executive on light entertainment side of major TV company.

FILMS SEC
£7,000

Helpful, intelligent SEC to work with Film Production Manager at successful film studio. Excellent opp to progress to production.

"Nobody will look after you the way we do"

Pathfinders
25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3JF
01-477 3132

BERKELEY SQUARE

£8,500

Charming Director needs well educated Secretary to help him run his established property development company. This is a busy and varied job with lots of client contact and involvement. Good secretarial skills (100/60), smart appearance and ability to work on own initiative necessary. Lovely offices, age 23-25.

RING 434 4512

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Michelle Zadek

Recruitment Limited
KINGSWAY
W1/SEC 25,000

If you are an enthusiastic, ambitious, secretary with good secretarial skills, a good degree and an initiative, analytical mind, willing to move to working for a senior Director of this prestigious Agency with excellent prospects.

Please call Donald Blevins.

10A James Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8BT Tel. 01-240 333

Typist/Sec 20 + W11 Property Co.

Accurate 45+ typing combined with initiative and business acumen for busy property lettings/management Co. Drivers licence definite advantage £8,000.

Kaye Hartigan 930 5733

CENTACOM

2nd JOBBER - ADVERTISING

£7,000 - £7,500

Are you an ambitious graduate with initiative, prepared to take on a demanding role assisting a director within this active ad agency?

If so, and you have 1 years secretarial experience, speeds of 100/50 and are prepared to work hard for ample rewards phone 491 8747.

SOCIAL CONSCIENCE £8 - £8,500

Integrity, discretion and a sense of humour are vital qualities for this fulfilling position within an international association. You will enjoy administration, have organisational and secretarial skills combined with an approachable, cheerful disposition. Pref aged 30-40, phone 491 8742.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS LTD

PA SEC 120/60 wpm.

The successful applicant will be capable of working under pressure, have great tact and the ability to absorb information and dispense it where necessary. Some travel. Sal £9,500.

WEST END CLUB OWNER requires well presented personal secretary. Must have excellent skills (24-27 yrs). Salary £7,500+ exp.

SW1 AD AGENCY. Board Director is looking for Bright, bubbly young suffering sh/sec. Salary £8,000-£8,500. Must have 100/60 wpm.

Ring Sally Owens or Heather Myers on 01-235 8427, 4 Post St., SW1.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES

Secretary PA

Well established City Shipbrokers have vacancy for capable/experience shorthand typist/secretary with good written English. 'A' level standard. Good salary and conditions + fringe benefits. Apply Initially Ref, JBD or RSN.

Telephone 01-625 6291

SPANISH AT WORK

£7,500 negotiable

As this small, friendly firm with offices in a delightful part of W1 are Spanish speaking, of W1 are Spanish speaking, a secretary who is completely fluent will fit the bill. Speeds of 100/60 and 50/40 essential. English shorthand however would be an advantage. Age mid-20's.

International Secretaries
01-457 7000

FRENCH

£7,500 pa neg

Secretary (Shorthand) not essential but working knowledge of French display writer for Oil Company W1. Pina, must be good organizer and able to work on own initiative. 50% administrative work. Free BUPA, LVA, and other benefits. Vantage 837 6525

CENTACOM

YOUR MOVE

£69,000

A career move for a banking secretary to join the UK Corporate Lending Division of a City Merchant Bank. Skills in min. 100/65 and flexible attitude to working hours. A level maths essential.

Old Broad Street Bureau Ltd Staff Consultants.
588 3991

ARCHITECTS and LANDSCAPE PLANNERS

£8,000

Experienced PA/Secs for a variety of Senior Partners, offering responsibility and scope at Partner level. Must have previous exp with Architects or Surveyors or Building or Estate.

Covent Garden Bureau
53 FLEET STREET EC4
01-353 7696

AMERICAN BANK SECRETARY/PA

£7,500-£9,500 + Mortgage

Super opportunity for a polished Secretary with French/German to assist a charming bank working Vice-President who heads this prestigious European Division. Excellent career prospects.

Contact DEJA VU 686 4711

SUPER SECRETARIES

TEMP TO PERM your opportunity to get into the interesting world of secretarial work for the City. 4 DAY WEEK. Some international. 2nd/3rd/4th/5th/6th/7th/8th/9th/10th/11th/12th/13th/14th/15th/16th/17th/18th/19th/20th/21st/22nd/23rd/24th/25th/26th/27th/28th/29th/30th/31st/32nd/33rd/34th/35th/36th/37th/38th/39th/40th/41st/42nd/43rd/44th/45th/46th/47th/48th/49th/50th/51st/52nd/53rd/54th/55th/56th/57th/58th/59th/60th/61st/62nd/63rd/64th/65th/66th/67th/68th/69th/70th/71st/72nd/73rd/74th/75th/76th/77th/78th/79th/80th/81st/82nd/83rd/84th/85th/86th/87th/88th/89th/90th/91st/92nd/93rd/94th/95th/96th/97th/98th/99th/100th/101st/102nd/103rd/104th/105th/106th/107th/108th/109th/110th/111th/112th/113th/114th/115th/116th/117th/118th/119th/120th/121st/122nd/123rd/124th/125th/126th/127th/128th/129th/130th/131st/132nd/133rd/134th/135th/136th/137th/138th/139th/140th/141st/142nd/143rd/144th/145th/146th/147th/148th/149th/150th/151st/152nd/153rd/154th/155th/156th/157th/158th/159th/160th/161st/162nd/163rd/164th/165th/166th/167th/168th/169th/170th/171st/172nd/173rd/174th/175th/176th/177th/178th/179th/180th/181st/182nd/183rd/184th/185th/186th/187th/188th/189th/190th/191st/192nd/193rd/194th/195th/196th/197th/198th/199th/200th/201st/202nd/203rd/204th/205th/206th/207th/208th/209th/210th/211st/212th/213th/214th/215th/216th/217th/218th/219th/220th/221st/222nd/223rd/224th/225th/226th/227th/228th/229th/230th/231st/232nd/233rd/234th/235th/236th/237th/238th/239th/240th/241st/242nd/243rd/244th/245th/246th/247th/248th/249th/250th/251st/252nd/253rd/254th/255th/256th/257th/258th/259th/260th/261st/262nd/263rd/264th/265th/266th/267th/268th/269th/270th/271st/272nd/273rd/274th/275th/276th/277th/278th/279th/280th/281st/282nd/283rd/284th/285th/286th/287th/288th/289th/290th/291st/292nd/293rd/294th/295th/296th/297th/298th/299th/300th/301st/302nd/303rd/304th/305th/306th/307th/308th/309th/310th/311st/312th/313th/314th/315th/316th/317th/318th/319th/320th/321st/322nd/323rd/324th/325th/326th/327th/328th/329th/330th/331st/332nd/333rd/334th/335th/336th/337th/338th/339th/340th/341st/342nd/343rd/344th/345th/346th/347th/348th/349th/350th/351st/352nd/353rd/354th/355th/356th/357th/358th/359th/360th/361st/362nd/363rd/364th/365th/366th/367th/368th/369th/370th/371st/372nd/373rd/374th/375th/376th/377th/378th/379th/380th/381st/382nd/383rd/384th/385th/386th/387th/388th/389th/390th/391st/392nd/393rd/394th/395th/396th/397th/398th/399th/400th/401st/402nd/403rd/404th/405th/406th/407th/408th/409th/410th/411st/412th/413th/414th/415th/416th/417th/418th/419th/420th/421st/422nd/423rd/424th/425th/426th/427th/428th/429th/430th/431st/432nd/433rd/434th/435th/436th/437th/438th/439th/440th/441st/442nd/443rd/444th/445th/446th/447th/448th/449th/450th/451st/452nd/453rd/454th/455th/456th/457th/458th/459th/460th/461st/462nd/463rd/464th/465th/466th/467th/468th/469th/470th/471st/472nd/473rd/474th/475th/476th/477th/478th/479th/480th/481st/482nd/483rd/484th/485th/486th/487th/488th/489th/490th/491st/492nd/493rd/494th/495th/496th/497th/498th/499th/500th/501st/502nd/503rd/504th/505th/506th/507th/508th/509th/510th/511st/512th/513th/514th/515th/516th/517th/518th/519th/520th/521st/522nd/523rd/524th/525th/526th/527th/528th/529th/530th/531st/532nd/533rd/534th/535th/536th/537th/538th/539th/540th/541st/542nd/543rd/544th/545th/546th/547th/548th/549th/550th/551st/552nd/553rd/554th/555th/556th/557th/558th/559th/560th/561st/562nd/563rd/564th/565th/566th/567th/568th/569th/570th/571st/572nd/573rd/574th/575th/576th/577th/578th/579th/580th/581st/582nd/583rd/584th/585th/586th/587th/588th/589th/590th/591st/592nd/593rd/594th/595th/596th/597th/598th/599th/600th/601st/602nd/603rd/604th/605th/606th/607th/608th/609th/610th/611st/612th/613th/614th/615th/616th/617th/618th/619th/620th/621st/622nd/623rd/624th/625th/626th/627th/628th/629th/630th/631st/632nd/633rd/634th/635th/636th/637th/638th/639th/640th/641st/642nd/643rd/644th/645th/646th/647th/648th/649th/650th/651st/652nd/653rd/654th/655th/656th/657th/658th/659th/660th/661st/662nd/663rd/664th/665th/666th/667th/668th/669th/670th/671st/672nd/673rd/674th/675th/676th/677th/678th/679th/680th/681st/682nd/683rd/684th/685th/686th/687th/688th/689th/690th/691st/692nd/693rd/694th/695th/696th/697th/698th/699th/700th/701st/702nd/703rd/704th/705th/706th/707th/708th/709th/710th/711st/712th/713th/714th/715th/716th/717th/718th/719th/720th/721st/722nd/723rd/724th/725th/726th/727th/728th/729th/730th/731st/732nd/733rd/734th/735th/736th/737th/738th/739th/740th/741st/742nd/743rd/744th/745th/746th/747th/748th/749th/750th/751st/752nd/753rd/754th/755th/756th/757th/758th/759th/760th/761st/762nd/763rd/764th/765th/766th/767th/768th/769th/770th/771st/772nd/773rd/774th/775th/776th/777th/778th/779th/780th/781st/782nd/783rd/784th/785th/786th/787th/788th/789th/790th/791st/792nd/793rd/794th/795th/796th/797th/798th/799th/800th/801st/802nd/803rd/804th/805th/806th/807th/808th/809th/810th/811st/812th/813th/814th/815th/816th/817th/818th/819th/820th/821st/822nd/823rd/824th/825th/826th/827th/828th/829th/830th/831st/832nd/833rd/834th/835th/836th/837th/838th/839th/840th/841st/842nd/843rd/844th/845th/846th/847th/848th/849th/850th/851st/852nd/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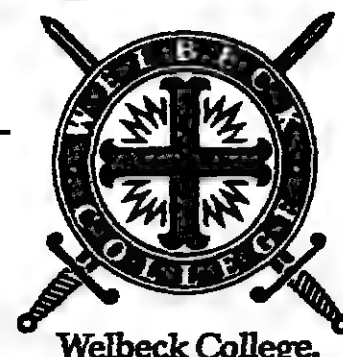
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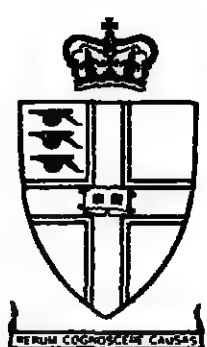
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Mr M. J. C. Wheeler, M.A., the present Headmaster of Cheam School, will be retiring in August, 1985. The Governors will shortly be appointing his successor.

The successful candidate will be a fully qualified graduate, and probably will be married and have had experience as a Head of a Preparatory School.

Further details concerning applications may be obtained from the Chairman of Governors, Cheam School, Headley, Newbury, Berkshire. RG15 8LD.

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Intending candidates should apply for full details to the Clerk to the Governors, The Manchester Grammar School, Manchester M13 0XT. Completed applications will be required to reach the School by 23rd March, 1984.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Ceefax AM.**
- 6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Selma Scott and Mike Smith. News from Fern Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; David Wheeler's television preview at 6.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18; reviews of the new films and pop records between 7.45 and 8.00; horoscopes at 8.30.
- 9.00 **Gardeners' World.** Geoff Hamilton and Anne Mayo at Barnsley with gardeners expert David Stoddard (shown last Friday). 9.25 **Songs of Praise** from the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, Newcastle, Co. Down (shown yesterday) (Ceefax times page 170). 10.00 **Ceefax.** 10.30 **Play School.** presented by Brian Johnston (10.55 **Ceefax.**
- 12.30 **News After Noon.** 12.57 **Regional News** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines (1.00). A week in the life of a novice crew aboard the schooner, Sir Winston Churchill, 3.35 **Cartoons.** 3.48 **Regional News** (not London).
- 3.50 **Magpie Roundabout.** (1.35) **Play School.** presented by Brian Johnston. 4.20 **The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse.** 4.25 **Jockanory.** 4.40 **Finders Keepers.** Inter-school general knowledge quiz. 5.05 **News.** 5.10 **Blue Peter** has the true story of the Great Escape from Stalag Luft III.
- 5.40 **Sixty Minutes** includes news read by Moira Stuart at 5.40; 6.00 **Roll Hums Cartoon Time.** Thirty minutes of comedy from characters who include Tom and Jerry and Yosemite Sam (1.10). 6.10 **Blue Thunder.** Helicopter pilot Frank Chaney has to choose between protecting the beautiful president of a Third World country or saving the lives of Bubba and Ski, trapped in a perilous airborne mission which is about to crash.
- 6.40 **Points of View.** Barry Took takes another dip into the BBC's postbag.
- 8.10 **Panorama: America's Other Election.** Jeremy Paxman reports on the background to next weekend's presidential election in El Salvador.
- 9.00 **News with John Humphrys.**
- 9.25 **Film: Cabellance (1980)** starring Charles Bronson. A small fishing village on the Peruvian coast loses its tranquillity when it is discovered that a shipwreck with \$20 million of gold on board lies just off the coast. First showing on British television. Directed by J. Lee Thompson.
- 10.55 **Film 84.** Barry Norman **Views The Dresser,** starring Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay. Uncommon Valour and Never Cry Wolf. The location report from Los Angeles is on the set of **Unfaithfully Yours,** starring Natascha Kinski.
- 11.23 **News headlines.**
- 11.25 **Wheels of Fate.** The penultimate film in a series devoted to development issues in India (1.1).
- 11.55 **Weather.**

TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anna Diamond and John Stapleton. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.40 and 8.45; exercises at 6.50 and 8.45; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.20; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; cartoon at 7.25; guest of the day at 7.45; pop video at 7.55; star romance at 8.10; Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.35; the TV-am doctor at 9.05.

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- 9.25 **Thames news headlines.** 9.30 **For Schools:** Cartoon version of the Grimm fairy story, **Rumpelstiltskin** (shown yesterday) (Ceefax times page 170). 10.00 **Play School.** presented by Brian Johnston (10.55 **Ceefax.**
- 12.30 **News After Noon.** 12.57 **Regional News** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines (1.00). A week in the life of a novice crew aboard the schooner, Sir Winston Churchill, 3.35 **Cartoons.** 3.48 **Regional News** (not London).
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- 11.55 **Weather.**



Annika Rice presents Sporting Chance. BBC2 8.30pm

BBC 2

- 6.05 **Open University: The Giant 6.30 Oceanography.** Deep Sea Drilling. 6.55 **Maths:** Tutor Marked Assignments. 7.20 **Crust and Mantle of the Earth.** 7.45 **Sound in View.** Ends at 8.15.
- 9.00 **Ceefax.**
- 9.10 **Daytime on Two:** Working with the elderly and handicapped. 9.28 **Youth training schemes** in action. 10.00 **You and Me** 10.15 **Part Two of The Sleeping Beauty.** 10.38 **Modern history:** India - the brightest jewel in the crown. 11.00 **Zip Zag** 11.23 **Talkback:** The Monkey and the Moon. 11.42 **The language of music.** 12.10 **Folk guitar:** lessons for beginners. 12.25 **Plants in action.** 12.50 **Italy** 1.38 **Scotland during two world wars.** 2.01 **Words and pictures.** 2.18 **History:** roads and waterways. 2.40 **Music and dance.**
- 3.00 **Ceefax.**
- 3.10 **Can You Hear Me?** The methods used by teachers and parents of deaf children to develop learning abilities to the full (1.1).
- 3.35 **News summary** with subtitles.
- 3.40 **Film: Wake of the Red Witch (1948)** starring John Wayne as ship's captain Rains in a period piece about recovering gold from a shipwreck in the South Sea. Directed by Edward Ludwig.
- 7.20 **100 Great Sporting Moments.** Coronation year's Derby.
- 7.30 **The Stateless Nations.** The last of six films written and presented by George Reid examines the history of Belgium's Flemings and Walloons.
- 8.00 **Call My Bluff.** Frank Muir, Virginia McKenna and Sir Huw Wheldon attempt to outwit Arthur Marshall, Lynsey de Paul and John Dunn.
- 8.30 **Sporting Chance.** The first of a new series of eight programmes in which personalities take up a sport of their choice. The series is presented by Annika Rice (see Choice).
- 9.00 **The Painted Veil.** A new, five-part, comedy series with Lynn Redgrave in the title role and Jonathan Newth as her husband, John.
- 9.30 **Horizons: Prisoners of Incest.** A documentary drama based on treatment given by the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, to the family of the abused child, (see Choice).
- 10.25 **A Fight to Remember.** Harry Carpenter introduces highlights of bouts featuring Chris Finnegan, Kevin Finnegan, Alan Minter, Marvin Haigh and Bob Foster.
- 10.55 **Newsnight.**
- 11.40 **Peter Sellers Electric Music Show (1.1).**
- 12.15 **Open University: Childhood in Victorian Literature.** 12.40 **No.** Minister: Education Vouchers. Ends at 1.10.

CHANNEL 4

- 5.00 **Night Beat News.** More chaos created by the team presenting a television news programme.
- 5.25 **The Mary Tyler Moore Show.** Rhode as last night's boyfriend but he is short-lived when he takes a shine to Mary after their first introduction.
- 6.00 **Here's Lucy.** The scheming Lucy and her children discover a small brass lamp which appears to have magical properties.
- 6.30 **Make It Count.** Fred Harris with another in his series designed to take the worry out of figure work. Today he examines the larger numbers and offers help with the calculator and percentages (1.1).
- 7.00 **Channel Four News** with Peter Sissons includes the latest news on the miners' dispute.
- 7.30 **Comment.** With her view of a matter of topical importance is teacher and topographer, Kira Vedatova.
- 8.00 **Henry Cooper's Golden Belt.** Henry Cooper is at the Welland Boys' Club for the second quarterfinal of the inter-city boys' club boxing challenge, between South London and Manchester. Helping Henry choose the Best Young Boxer of the Evening is former middleweight champion of the world, Alan Barker.
- 8.00 **The Heart of the Dragon.** The eighth programme of the compelling series on modern-day China is entitled **Working.** The programme illustrates what it is like to live and work in the city of Beijing, on the border of Inner Mongolia. The railway works still produce steam locomotives and the coal mined in the area is carried across the hills by camel train. The state looks after the citizens by choosing what job they do; how much they are paid; what they should do on their day off; and whether or not they are allowed to travel outside the city.
- 10.00 **Behind the Screens.** Coverage of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Awards for the best film and television of the year, presented by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. The categories awarded are Best Cinematographer, Film Editor, TV Editor, TV Design and VTR Editor. Among those presenting the awards are Rowan Atkinson, Pamela Stephenson, Alan Bates, Mike Yarwood and Nicole Hughes.
- 11.15 **The Eleventh Hour: Sex and Violence in Women's Prisons.** A brief and very accurate of prison system and some of the women imprisoned. With four ex-prisoners and poetry by Jack Holborow.
- 12.15 **Closedown.**

CHOICE

- for the first time since his arrest. The tension is acute when he arrives at the hospital. His wife, Anna (Sue Rogers) is tense and fearful; the children, 14-year old Marc (Perry Benson), 15-year old Amanda (Tamara Sleser) and the 16-year old abused daughter, Natalie (Sara Sugarman) are bewildered. The question and answer sessions are based on the hospital team's experience in over 100 cases and are aimed at getting the family to talk about the abuse which has been going on since Natalie was nine-years old. How the psychiatrists try to relieve the tensions and to get the family talking is enthralling but praise must be given to the cast for making this reconstruction totally credible.
- On a lighter note is the first programme in a new eight-part series, **SPORTING CHANCE** (BBC2 8.30pm), presented by Annika Rice. In which well-known personalities are asked to take up a sport of their choice which they have never before attempted. Sally Connolly, Martin Shaw and Miss Rice herself are tonight's guinea pigs. Sally Connolly, takes his first horse riding lesson on Equus, Martin Shaw, the hard man of the Professionals, looks decidedly nervous as he learns to fly a glider; while Miss Rice manages to remain wholesome and unperturbed as she slogs through a rain-soaked forest with Steve Cramm as her orienteering tutor.

Radio 3

- 6.55 **Weather.** 7.00 **News.** 7.05 **Morning Concert:** part one. Reznak's overture Donna Danna; Tannu's Cello Concerto in A (Pozzopoveri/Celloquies Museum of Zurich); Schubert's Gebet, D 815 (Ailing/Baker/Schreier/Fischer-Dieskau/Gerald Moore); Tannu's Concerto for piano for guitar and cello (with Les Roberts); 8.00 **News.** 8.05 **Morning Concert:** part two. Gluck's Valse Inconnue; Vivaldi's Winter (from Four Seasons); Schumann's papillons (Amaru, piano) and Beethoven's Bagatelles for harmonium and string trio (Peters/Panayiotou, harpamun; 10.00 **News.** 10.05 **The Week's Composer:** Joseph Haydn's symphony; Ave nobilissima creatura; and Missa - L'homme armé. 10.10 **Clement and Brahms:** Janus Solym (piano) plays Clement's Prelude, Fugue and Minuet from Gradus and Paganini; and Brahms's Piano Sonata No 3 in F minor, Op 10, 1.
- 10.55 **Prokofiev:** Moscow Radio SO play Symphonic Sketch: In Autumn; and the Symph No 7 (original version). 11.10 **Lieder in English:** Felicity Lott (soprano) Keith Graham (piano). Four songs accompanied by Brahms (Theresa: Credo-song), Schumann (Far from home and other songs from Eichendorff Cycle, Op 39) and Schubert (Violet). 12.05 **BBC Welsh SO** with Kenneth Hensley, by Stephen Macdonald. The story of the relationship between the First World War poets Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen played respectively by the author and James Taylor). A Radio Scotland production. 1.00 **News.** 1.05 **Penelope Keith** talks about gardens open for the first time in aid of the Cancer Research Fund and other charitable causes.
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McGlinchey questioned after extradition

Continued from page 1

had been established and he presumed it would be applied in subsequent judgments. Replying to critics who condemned the decision as a sad day for nationalism, the prime minister said: "It is a sad kind of nationalism that thinks that people against whom there are charges of murder, would not be proceeded against by the normal processes of the law and that murder could be a political offence."

political offence. Mr. FitzGerald's government and the court decision will come under attack from extreme republicans and Mr. Danny Morrison, of Provisional Sinn Féin, said the extradition had been greeted with a sense of treachery and anger by the IRA. He said that Mr. FitzGerald would go down for the same of the New Ireland Forum. The Supreme Court judgment of 1982 indicated a willingness to examine critically what constituted a political offence. Previously suspects had avoided extradition by claiming that offences committed in the north were political or connected with a political offence but Chief Justice Mr. Tom O'Higgins said he was not prepared to assume that any charge connected with paramilitary activity should be regarded as a political offence.

● One Northern Ireland man and two from the Republic appeared yesterday before the Special Criminal Court in Dublin on charges arising out of Saturday's gun battle in which they were arrested along with Dominic McGlinchey.

Mr Seamus McShane, aged 29, of no fixed address, and Mr Damien Bird, aged 28, from Dundalk, co Louth, were charged with having firearms with intent to endanger life and using them to resist arrest near Newmarket on Fergus co Clare. Mr Ciaran Damery, aged 30, from Cobh, co Cork, who said he was a member of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, was charged with having a gun to endanger life and with unlawful possession of it. All three were remanded in custody until March 30.

● Detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad yesterday questioned an unnamed man flown to London from Belfast after he was arrested by the RUC on Saturday. The Yard would only say that the man was being questioned about Provisional IRA activities in Great Britain.

